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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas



IRAQ

CHAOS SPREADS

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- Congress warming to idea of airstrikes
- Militant group presses toward capital
- Map: Former US bases in the firing line

AP

Refugees fleeing Mosul head to the self-ruled northern Kurdish region in Irbil, Iraq, 217 miles north of Baghdad, on Thursday after militants took over much of the city this week.

Government lawyers urge dismissal of Camp Lejeune toxic-water suit

By EMERY P. DALESIO
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Obama administration attorneys have asked a federal appeals court to dismiss a lawsuit blaming contaminated tap water at a U.S. Marine Corps base in North Carolina for birth defects, childhood cancers and other illnesses.

The Department of Justice filed a request to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta on

Monday. Earlier that day, the Supreme Court ruled in another case that a group of North Carolina homeowners could not sue a nearby electroplating business they blamed for contaminating their land because state law bars any lawsuit brought more than 10 years after the contamination occurred.

Government lawyers said the high-court ruling should end the Camp Lejeune lawsuit and "judgment should be

entered for the United States."

A Camp Lejeune spokeswoman did not respond to a message Wednesday seeking comment.

John Korzen, a Wake Forest University law professor representing Marine Corps families, countered the government's argument with a filing in which he said court action was necessary because judges had not decided when the pollution at Camp Lejeune ended, marking the start of the 10-year deadline.

SEE LEJEUNE ON PAGE 5



A sign is posted outside a cleanup pump and treatment center at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for treating the underground plume of trichloroethylene, created by a waste disposal site on the Marine base.

AP

MILITARY

Bergdahl's writings reveal fragile mind before disappearance

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WORLD CUP

Team USA faces challenging group heading to Brazil

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FACES

Bonnaroo to feature mini British invasion

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Military: Senators look to roll back pensions for senior officers >> Page 5

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“It could usher in a new era in which major strike missions are turned over to a machine. That will be difficult for many carrier aviators to swallow.”

— former Pentagon strategist Samuel D. Brannen, on a Navy plan for aircraft carrier-based drones
See story on Page 6

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Bergdahl's writings reveal a fragile young man
2. 3rd Cowpens commander fired since 2010; CMC relieved
3. New 3rd Air Force commander on the job at Ramstein
4. Media reports identify 4 killed in 'friendly-fire' airstrike in Afghanistan
5. House panel votes to scrap A-10 Warthog

COMING
SOON

Video games

“Mario Kart 8”



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MILITARY

IG: Trouble grows with poppy crop

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Afghans are growing more opium poppies than ever before and it is threatening to wipe out gains made to help the impoverished country improve health, education and governance, the U.S. watchdog for spending in Afghanistan said Tuesday.

John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction, told a House subcommittee that the narcotics trade is tainting the financial sector, stoking corruption, and helping Taliban insurgents and criminal networks. He said there already are signs that elements within the Afghan security forces are making

arrangements with rural populations to permit opium poppy growing as a way to build local patronage networks.

“The expanding cultivation and trafficking of drugs is one of the most significant factors putting the entire U.S. and international donor investment in the reconstruction of Afghanistan at risk,” he said in prepared remarks.

“Meanwhile, the United States and other donor nations assisting Afghanistan have, by and large, made counter-narcotics programming a lower strategic priority at the same time that the 2014 drawdown of U.S. and coalition forces increases the security risks in the country.”

The U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime said Afghanistan produced

nearly \$3 billion in opium plus its heroin and morphine derivatives last year — up over the \$2 billion produced the year before.

From 2002 through March of this year, the U.S. had provided more than \$7 billion for counter-narcotics efforts and agriculture stabilization programs, an important component of the U.S. strategy to curb opium poppy production.

That’s jeopardizing U.S. reconstruction programs at a time when the U.S. military is withdrawing troops, which is making it more difficult for aid workers to visit rebuilding sites and oversee programs.

“On my trips to Afghanistan in 2013 and earlier this year, no one at the [U.S.] Embassy could con-

vincingly explain to me how the U.S. government counter-narcotics efforts are making a meaningful impact on the narcotics trade or how they will have a significant impact after” the U.S.-led combat mission ends in December, Sopko said.

Sopko said his team plans to conduct a comprehensive audit to assess how U.S. taxpayer money has been spent on programs to counter narcotics trafficking and whether it’s been effective.

On his recent visits, he said, he spoke with Afghan officials about whether the country will become a successful modern state or an insurgent state.

“There is a third possibility,” he said. “A narco-criminal state.”

By **PETE YOST**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four former Blackwater Worldwide security guards went on trial Wednesday in the killings of 14 Iraqis and the wounding of at least 18 others.

Over the next few days, a jury of 12 residents from the District of Columbia will be chosen from a pool of 111 people to decide the guards’ fate. The trial is expected to last months.

The judge overseeing the trial, Royce Lamberth, has been a U.S. district judge for more than 25 years and he has a military background. He served as a captain in the Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps from 1968 to 1974, including three years at the Pentagon.

The prospective jurors filled out 26-page questionnaires that delved into whether they had any personal experience with excessive use of force by security guards; whether they would be able to follow testimony from Arabic-speaking witnesses through a translator; and whether they have strong feelings about the war in Iraq or the prosecution of American citizens for acts committed in a war zone.

In a brief proceeding, the judge instructed the prospective jurors not to read or watch anything

about the case and he specifically mentioned social media. No text messaging or the case. No text messaging or the case. No text messaging or the case.

“Just don’t do it,” he said. “Just stick to the evidence” in the courtroom.

Lamberth gave no indication to the prospective jurors that the guard who faces the most serious charge is asking that he be tried separately from the other three.

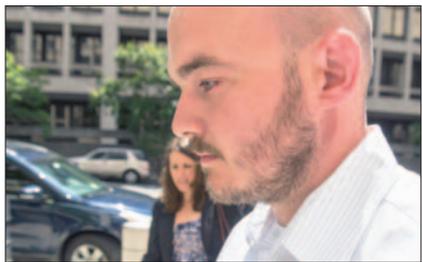
The Justice Department opposes the request by Nicholas Slatten, who is charged with first-degree murder.

Details of the request and the prosecutors’ response are sealed from public view for now. In a court filing, federal prosecutors referred to the guard’s request to sever his case.

The other three guards — Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard — are charged with manslaughter, attempted manslaughter and gun charges.

Lamberth told each of the four defendants and their lawyers to stand up and be introduced. He reminded the members of the jury pool that the guards are presumed innocent and explained that they are to fill out detailed questionnaires in an effort to ensure that they can act fairly and impartially.

Some of the upcoming testi-



CUFF OWEN/AP

Former Blackwater Worldwide guard Nicholas Slatten leaves federal court in Washington on Wednesday. Slatten and three others are on trial for the killing of 14 Iraqi civilians in 2007.

mony in the case is expected to suggest animosity toward Iraqis by three of the guards. On Wednesday, the judge allowed testimony that Slatten made statements saying he wanted to kill as many Iraqis as he could as “payback for 9/11.”

“Statements as violent and specifically hostile as those alleged would undoubtedly be probative of an intent to kill,” the judge wrote in an opinion.

Lamberth also said he will

allow testimony that Slatten, Liberty and Slough fired their weapons indiscriminately, without perceivable threats to their safety.

Slatten could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted. The others face a mandatory minimum penalty of 30 years in prison if convicted of the gun charge and at least one other charge.

The shootings occurred Sept. 16, 2007, at the Nisoor Square traffic circle in Baghdad.

239th
ARMY BIRTHDAY



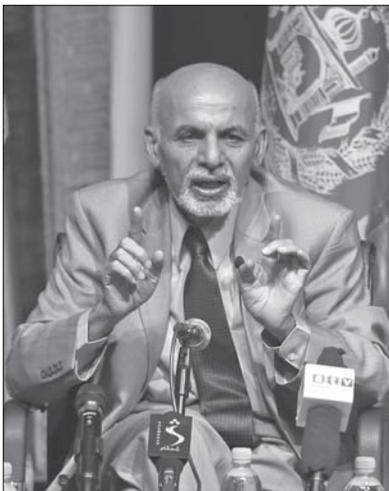
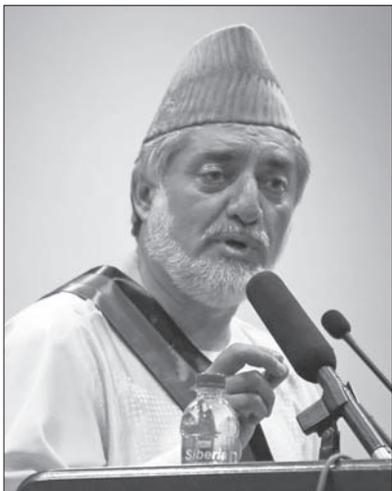
Happy Birthday United States Army

Service Credit Union congratulates the United States Army on its 239th birthday on June 14, 2014. We thank them and their families for their dedication to our great nation.



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MIDEAST



Afghanistan presidential candidates Abdullah Abdullah, left, and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai speak during separate campaign events this week in Kabul. The second round of Afghanistan's presidential election will be held Saturday.

Bergdahl not an Afghan issue

Presidential candidates say little on Taliban as voting approaches

By SHASHANK BENGALI
AND HASHMAT BAKTASH
Los Angeles Times

KABUL — A heated presidential race in Afghanistan leading to Saturday's runoff election scarcely touched the news that has captivated many Americans for days: the Taliban's release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.

As they crisscrossed the country, neither of the veteran politicians vying to succeed President Hamid Karzai said much publicly about the controversial deal that freed Bergdahl on May 31 in exchange for five Afghans held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Nor did former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai address the still-distant prospects for an agreement that could end hostilities with the Taliban.

Though each candidate says that reaching a peace deal would be a priority for his government, Abdullah and Ghani have focused their campaigns on economic development, responsible governance and, less loftily, striking pacts with former rivals and ethnic power brokers.

"In a strange way, the Taliban are not a factor in the elections," said Michael Semple, a former European Union senior official in Afghanistan. "The contest between Abdullah and Ghani is over other things."

The virtual silence on one of the overriding challenges facing Afghanistan seems odd, but analysts say that both men sought to avoid controversy in the home stretch of a closely watched race. Abdullah appears to have the edge, having won substantially more votes than Ghani in April's first round of balloting and pocketing several key endorsements since then.

Neither candidate has offered details on how he would bring the Taliban insurgent

group to the negotiating table, which Karzai failed to do despite years of on-and-off efforts. The Bergdahl deal has injected new complexity into the process.

Taliban leaders have long said they would negotiate only with the United States, which it considers its main adversary. When the group opened an office in Qatar last year, U.S. officials hoped it would be a precursor to direct talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

U.S. officials had sought Bergdahl's release as a way to build momentum for wider negotiations. But with most U.S. troops leaving Afghanistan at year's end, the Obama administration made a direct deal to free the 28-year-old soldier, who was held captive for five years by Taliban in the mountains of neighboring Pakistan.

The deal concluded one of the United States' last pieces of unfinished business in Afghanistan but won no assurances from the Taliban on future talks. Karzai fumed over being excluded from the deal, which left the five Taliban released by the U.S. in the custody of the government of Qatar and, in the eyes of many, boosted the insurgent group's morale.

Borhan Osman, an expert with the Afghanistan Analysts Network, a Kabul-based research organization, said: "This swap was not part of anything related to the peace process. ... It was a stand-alone agreement. And as such it is of no help to future talks between the Taliban and

Kabul."

After the Bergdahl deal was announced, Taliban officials reiterated their public position that they would not negotiate with Kabul, a government it considers a Western puppet. The Afghan army lacks the ability to defeat the Taliban outright, and insurgent hard-liners are believed to want to wait out the departure of the last U.S. troops at the end of 2016, when they might have greater bargaining power.

Osman said the swap has also bolstered the Taliban's Qatar office, which made the deal, as well as moderates in the insurgent group who are said to favor further negotiations.

With U.S. and international troops withdrawing, leaving the vast majority of military operations to Afghan forces, the Taliban's rationale that it is fighting foreign invaders is growing obsolete, said Semple, who has studied Afghanistan for more than two decades. That has produced a split in the movement, with some Taliban leaders, who see a military victory as impossible, beginning to favor negotiations.

Analysts say the Obama administration must help Afghanistan's next president reach out to Taliban pragmatists. U.S. officials have refrained from backing any candidate, but this week left the door open for further American involvement in the peace process.

Slaughter memories stir Afghan ire at prisoner swap

By ELTAF NAJAFIZADA
Bloomberg News

KABUL — Mohammad Ali walked through a desert in northern Afghanistan early one morning in 2000 searching for his two brothers. He found them in an open grave with their heads chopped off, lying alongside more than a dozen corpses.

Ali's siblings were among hundreds of Shiite Muslims killed by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. The purge was ordered in part by Mullah Norullah Noori and other provincial governors, according to Afghanistan's official human rights body. Noori was one of five Taliban detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, released last week in exchange for U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.

"America released the murderers of my brothers and tens of thousands others," Ali, 52, said in an interview at his home in the capital of Kabul, surrounded by his four sons. "Shame on you, America."

As President Barack Obama faces more questions at home about the decision to release prisoners for a soldier who may have abandoned his unit, some Afghans are fuming. The country's nascent police and army are battling to quash a Taliban insurgency that the United Nations says killed about 3,000 Afghan civilians last year as the U.S. prepares to withdraw almost all of its troops by 2017.

"They are in positions to persuade people to join the Taliban and spread violence in Afghanistan," Iqbal Kohistan, a former intelligence officer who runs a minor political party, said by phone, referring to the released prisoners. "They were involved in creating Taliban militants — they are Taliban creators."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government has also criticized the agreement and demanded the unconditional freedom of its citizens. U.S. Ambassador James Cunningham said that Afghanistan had been aware "for quite some time" that the detainees would go to Qatar.

"No state can transfer another country's citizen to a third country and put restrictions on their freedom," Afghanistan's foreign ministry said June 1 in an emailed statement.

The Afghanistan High Peace Council, a body created by Karzai in 2010 to facilitate peace talks with the Taliban, welcomed the prisoner release. Karzai's government had long requested their release to persuade the Taliban to sit down at the negotiating table.

"We should be optimistic about their releases," Ismail Qasimyar, one of about 70 members on the High Peace Council, said by phone. "The release helps ensure trust building and strengthens the peace process with the Taliban militants."

On the streets of Kabul, the city's 3.3 million inhabitants were more skeptical. When the predominantly Sunni Taliban ruled the city prior to the U.S. invasion in 2001, stadiums were used for public executions and Shiites were restricted from freely practicing their religion.

"Releasing the murderers of thousands of Afghans and dangerous Taliban figures for their own self benefit is showing the real face of the U.S.," Ahmad Sharaf, 27, a Kabul University student, said in an interview.

The U.S. is losing the hearts and minds of Afghans."

“In a strange way, the Taliban are not a factor in the elections. The contest between [Abdullah] Abdullah and [Ashraf] Ghani [Ahmadzai] is over other things.”

Michael Semple
former European Union senior officer in Afghanistan

MILITARY

'I am the lone wolf of deadly nothingness'

Bergdahl's writings provide insight into his thoughts before he vanished in Afghanistan

By STEPHANIE MCCURMUM

The Washington Post

Before he became a Taliban prisoner, before he wrote in his journal "I am the lone wolf of deadly nothingness," before he ever joined the Army, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard for psychological reasons, said close friends who were worried about his emotional health at the time.

The 2006 discharge and a trove of Bergdahl's writing — the handwritten journal along with other essays, stories and emails provided to The Washington Post — paint a portrait of a deeply complicated and fragile young man who was by his own account struggling to maintain his mental stability from the start of basic training until the moment in 2009 when he walked off his post in eastern Afghanistan.

"I'm worried," he wrote in one journal entry before he deployed. "The closer I get to ship day, the calmer the voices are. I'm reverting. I'm getting colder. My feelings are being flushed with the frozen logic and the training, all the unfeeling cold judgment of the darkness."

"I will not lose this mind, this world I have deep inside," he wrote a few pages later. "I will not lose this passion or beauty."

"I'm trying to write myself together," he wrote at another point, using his often unorthodox spelling. "I'm so tired of the blackness, but what will happen to me without it. Bloody hell why do I keep thinking of this over and over?"

"I'm going to be home before he walked away. Bergdahl sent an email to a friend. "Lines n0 t g00 d h3rE. tell u when I have a si cure line about pl-/ns," read the partially coded message, one of Bergdahl's many references to unspecified plans and dreams of walking away.

Several days after he vanished, a box containing his blue spiral-bound journal, his Apple laptop, a copy of the novel "Atlas Shrugged," military records and other items arrived at the home of his close friend Kim Harrison, whom Bergdahl designated in his Army paperwork as the person who should receive his remains.

Harrison said she decided to share the journal and computer files with The Post because she has become concerned about the portrayal of Bergdahl as a calculating deserter, which she contends is at odds with her understanding of him as a sensitive, vulnerable young man.

Bergdahl's parents declined a request for an interview about their son's writings and mental health. A military spokesman said questions could not be put to Bergdahl "at this point in his reintegration process."

Harrison and others close to Bergdahl said his writings about the events surrounding the Coast Guard discharge raise questions about his mental fitness for military service and how he was accepted into the Army in 2008. Typically, a discharge for psychological reasons would disqualify a potential recruit.

According to Coast Guard records, Bergdahl left the service with an "uncharacterized discharge" after 26 days of basic training in early 2006. The term applies to people discharged before completing 180 days of service. No reason is specified in such discharges, and a Coast Guard representative said no further information was available.

A senior Army official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the Army was aware of a prior "administrative discharge" when Bergdahl enlisted. A senior Army official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Berg-



This case, containing a journal, photographs and other personal items, was received by Kim Harrison, a friend of Bowe Bergdahl, after he vanished in Afghanistan in 2009.

dahl would have required a waiver to enlist under such circumstances. The official could not immediately confirm that Bergdahl received one.

With two wars raging in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008, the Army was meeting recruitment goals by issuing waivers that allowed people with criminal records, health conditions and other problems to enlist. According to a 2008 Army War College study on the subject, the Army was issuing waivers at a rate of one for every five recruits at the time.

Whatever the exact circumstances of Bergdahl's enlistment, the Coast Guard discharge came as no surprise to Harrison and other friends of Bergdahl's who grew up with him in Ketchum, Idaho, who said he was a poor fit for military service.

"He is the perfect example of a person who should not have gone" to war, said Harrison, who spoke on the condition that she be identified by her former married name because she is concerned about threats. "The only person worse would be someone with a low IQ. In my mind, they didn't care."

'Light in this darkness'

"Really, how pathetic i feel as i listen to people talk of the hell I will be heading to," he wrote in a computer file titled "my army memories." "Compared to hell of the real wars of the past, we are nothing but camping boy scouts. Hiding from children behind our heavy armored trucks and our c-wire and sand bagged operating post, we tell our selves that we are not cowards."

Mostly, the writing describes Bergdahl's own internal thoughts and struggles, from the first entry in his journal dated June 11, 2008, the month Bergdahl headed to Army basic training in Georgia, to the last email dated June 27, 2009, three days before his disappearance.

After growing up as a home-schooled kid in the rural fringe of Hailey, Idaho, Bergdahl was drawn to an artistic, free-thinking crowd in the nearby ski town of Ketchum,

where he met Harrison when he started taking ballet and fencing lessons at an arts center she ran. He started living away from home, bouncing from couch to couch, and became close friends with her son Shane and daughter Kayla.

In 2006, Bergdahl announced he was joining the Coast Guard, a decision his friends thought was unwise given his personality. Harrison said she tried to talk him out of it, but finally relented and drove him to a military office in Idaho Falls to take the Coast Guard exam.

Soon after he left Ketchum for basic training, Bergdahl sent her a dozen or so notebook pages filled with tiny writing, distributes against the rigors of military life. She was alarmed, she said. When he returned after a few weeks, he told her he had gotten out on a psychological discharge.

"He told me he faked it," she recalled. "I said, 'You don't fake a psychological discharge, you have to become unfit.' I told him that. The reality was it wasn't OK. I saw it in the letters, the way the writing was changing, the anger."

Another friend remembered having a similar conversation with Bergdahl.

"I said, 'What happened?'" this friend recalled. "He said he started to feel a psychological disorder, saying strange things to get out. I remember flat out calling him out on it — I said 'there is something else going on.' He said, 'I chose to do it.' "I know he believed he was in control, but I didn't," the friend said.

Chronicling his worries

Bergdahl landed in Georgia for basic training in June 2008, and began filling up the blue journal.

"A wolf, mutt, hound, dog, I've been called these from my childhood," he wrote in the first few pages. "But what good am I, my existence is that of exile. To live on the fringes of this world as a guard."

He wrote about what he described as "shallow" and "crude minds around him" and "this hell that pools so many fools, and

they are all part of the illusion."

"Bullet sponges," he wrote at one point. "This is what some of the SEALs call regular Army and other mass ground troops. Its right, the job of a soldier is to basically die."

On the final handwritten journal page, he listed story ideas, the last of which was "a story about one going-crazy-to wander the earth alone."

On a scrap of paper tucked into the journal, he wrote, "Walk us to the end of this. Walk on. And walk us out of here."

'Pulling away'

Bergdahl was sent to Fort Richardson in Alaska to finish out the year, and by March 2009 he had arrived in Paktika, Afghanistan, where his post was a football-field-size swath of sand partially surrounded with barbed wire.

As fellow soldiers have described him, Bergdahl was either a brooding, aloof figure or "a good soldier" who did what he was asked. In a file titled "throw the brain," Bergdahl wrote of his new experience "I'm at an odd place here."

On June 7, three weeks before he walked off post, Bergdahl emailed Harrison's daughter Kayla.

"If at any point in time, kim gets a call from red cross, or the mill, no matter when in a week, month, or years ... Keep her from panic and bad ideas. You know what I do, and ash I am still perfecting, actions may become ... odd. No red flags. Im good. But plans have been added to form, no time line yet ... love you! Bowe."

Alarmed, Kayla wrote back: "Exactly what kind of plans are you thinking of?" "Lines n0 t g00 d h3rE tell u when I have a si cure line about pl-/ns," Bergdahl wrote back the next day. "There is still time yet for thinking."

"Just don't do anything stupid or pointless," Kayla wrote back.

"You know I plan better than that," Bergdahl wrote back.

In a file titled "If I've died READ" dated June 8, Bergdahl wrote about the reality of his life as a soldier and the idea of a life as a "storyteller."

"Tomorrow I may be dead. The thoughts that have come to rest in my conscious and subconscious being ... These thoughts have placed themselves in my head. In my projection ... I will try to use what little time this life gives me, to bring their beauty into the world ... This is the story teller's life."

On June 14, Bergdahl emailed Kayla again saying that he was "looking at a map of afghan" and asking if he could wire money to her or kim "to protect my money in the bank just in case things go bad."

On June 21, he emailed her again.

"How far will a human go to find their complete freedom ..." he wrote. "For one's freedom, do they have the right to destroy the world to gain it?"

On June 27, he sent an email to his friends titled "Who is John Galt?," a reference to the hero of Ayn Rand's novel "Atlas Shrugged," about individualism in a dystopian America.

"I will serve no bandit, nor lair, for i know John Galt, and understand ..." Bergdahl wrote. "This life is too short to serve those who compromise value, and its ethics. I am doing something crazy."

Three days later, Bergdahl walked off his post.

Several days after that, the box containing Bergdahl's journal arrived at Harrison's home.

"I was freaked out," Harrison recalled. "To me, it meant he did something stupid, or something crazy."

He is the perfect example of a person who should not have gone [to war]. The only person worse would be someone with a low IQ. ♣

Kim Harrison
friend of Bowe Bergdahl

MILITARY

Lejeune: Families cry foul over government lawyers' contention that exposure ended in '87

FROM FRONT PAGE

The court also needs to determine whether North Carolina law allows an exception to the 10-year limit for latent diseases that have a long development period within the body before they become evident, Korzen said. For example, many workers exposed to asbestos did not become aware of diseases caused by their exposure for many years, he said.

North Carolina has a "statute of repose" that ends a plaintiff's right to seek damages to property more than 10 years after the last act of contamination occurred. Only Connecticut, Kansas, Oregon and Alabama have statutes that place a similar time limit on property lawsuits.

Government lawyers contend any exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune ended in 1987.

President Barack Obama in 2012 signed the Camp Lejeune Veterans and Family Act to provide medical care and screening for Marines and their families, but not civilians, exposed between 1957 and 1987. The law covers 15 diseases or conditions, including

"They don't want these cases to go to court because the merits of the case are not favorable to their side. They know that they are guilty."

Jerry Ensminger
former Marine drill instructor

female infertility, miscarriage, leukemia and multiple myeloma, as well as bladder, breast, esophageal, kidney and lung cancers.

The law was passed after years of pressure by former Marines who blamed the contamination for health problems. The efforts were often met with strong resistance from the Marine Corps.

A long-anticipated study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released in December reported a link between the tainted Camp Lejeune tap water and increased risk of serious birth defects and childhood cancers. The CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry warned it was based on a small sample size and could not prove specific individuals became ill from exposure to chemicals,

which included toxins associated with degreasing solvents and gasoline.

Jerry Ensminger, a former Marine drill instructor who lost his 9-year-old daughter to leukemia in 1985, said Wednesday that he believes a trial would show the government has not fully taken responsibility for the negative health consequences of exposure to the contaminated tap water.

"They're trying every legal maneuver and technicality that they have accessible to them to ensure that we don't ever have our day in court," Ensminger said. "They don't want these cases to go to court because the merits of the case are not favorable to their side. They know that they are guilty."

Senate panel seeks to put a cap on senior officer pensions

By Tom Vanden Brook

USA Today

WASHINGTON — Pensions for senior generals and admirals would be rolled back to ensure their retirement pay doesn't exceed their active-duty salaries, according to a measure approved by a Senate panel.

In 2007, the Pentagon sought and received authority to modify the cap that determines pensions for three- and four-star generals and admirals in an effort to retain them during war. The change boosted the pensions of some senior officers by 63 percent.

The formula means that a four-star general or admiral retiring with 40 years of experience will receive a pension of \$237,144, according to the Pentagon. Base pay for active-duty top officers is \$181,501. Housing and other allowances can increase their compensation an additional third.

USA Today first reported on the change in 2012 when the Pentagon's highest pension payment of \$272,892 per year went to a retired four-star officer with 43 years' experience; his pension under the old formula would have been capped at about \$180,000.

"There has never been any indication that lifting this cap in 2007 helped with retention of senior officers — indeed, there was never any indication there was a problem," Tara Andringa, a spokeswoman for Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said in a statement.

The proposed change is part of an effort to curb growth in per-

sonnel costs, she said. The committee looked at pay raises and commissary costs. The provision on pensions was added to ensure the senior workforce would bear its share of any cutbacks, she said.

"Cutting the special pension enhancement is a no-brainer," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog. "This dubious provision was enacted at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as a means of retaining senior flag officers; however, there is little evidence that it realized its intended effect. It should be revoked as soon as possible."

The committee voted to reinstate the pre-2007 formula and to grandfather in officers considering retirement, according to a Senate staff member who was not authorized to speak on the record about the issue. The change would limit pensions of its most senior officers to their level of pay, \$181,500.

The system would stay in effect until next year's end, allowing officers to keep what they have earned. Officers whose retired pay is below the cap Dec. 31 will remain below or at the cap.

The change would save the Pentagon about \$23 million over nine years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The committee directed the Pentagon, at the request of Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., to study the effectiveness of the bolstered pensions in keeping senior officers in the military. This year, she questioned the need for the larger

pension payments during a hearing about military compensation and the need to rein in costs.

The change was tucked into the massive National Defense Authorization Act, which the committee approved on a 25-1 vote late last month. The full Senate will vote on the bill this year.

Bergdahl served short stint in the Coast Guard

By John Bacon

USA Today

Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was held for five years by an Islamic insurgent group in Afghanistan before the controversial barter that brought him freedom, was discharged from the Coast Guard two years before joining the Army.

"He did join in early 2006 and he did enter boot camp training," Coast Guard spokeswoman Lisa Novak confirmed to USA Today. "He left after 26 days ... with an uncharacterized discharge."

Such discharges, according to Coast Guard regulations, are issued to people who serve less than 180 days.

Novak provided no further explanation for Bergdahl's discharge.

Bergdahl, 28, was held captive by the Taliban-aligned Haqqani network in Afghanistan until his release May 31.

Five Guantanamo Bay detainees were freed in the deal, and the Obama administration has faced withering criticism, particularly on Capitol Hill.

Reports from his fellow soldiers and others that he had become disillusioned by the war and had walked away from his post before his capture added to the controversy.

Public opposition to the exchange has less to do with Bergdahl himself and more with how

Obama handled the transfer, according to a USA Today/Pew Research Center poll.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, testifying Wednesday on Capitol Hill, defended the deal, saying the risks to Bergdahl were growing when officials feverishly negotiated his release in return for five detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

Hagel also pointed out that Bergdahl has not been charged with any crime and the speculation and criticism of his actions are unwarranted.

"Like any American, Sgt. Bergdahl has rights, and his conduct will be judged on facts — not political hearsay, posturing, charges or innuendo. We owe that to any American and especially those who are members of our military and their families," he said.

Foes of the deal, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., say the men who were released are a threat to Americans.

They add that the deal could set a bad precedent and encourage enemies of the U.S. to kidnap Americans.



Bergdahl

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MILITARY

Will drones on carrier end need for pilots?

By W.J. HENNIGAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. Navy plan to launch aircraft carrier-based drones has launched a dogfight in Washington over the role of the robotic planes in combat.

The Navy has asked contractors for reconnaissance drones — essentially spy planes, with only limited ability to carry out bombing missions behind enemy lines.

But key congressional leaders want cutting-edge warplanes, stealthy drones that can attack key targets in contested areas with little more than a mouse click. If they get their way, the program, which would produce the military's first carrier-based drones, could end aviation as the Navy has known it, observers say.

"It could usher in a new era in which major strike missions are turned over to a machine," said Samuel D. Bradburn, senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former Pentagon strategist. "That will be difficult for many carrier aviators to swallow."

The Navy's plans to deploy the drones within the next decade came to an abrupt halt this month when key members of Congress said the program is shortsighted. Lawmakers halted all funding until the secretary of defense can complete a top-to-bottom review.

Four of the nation's largest military weapons makers are waiting to see how the skirmish plays out: Northrop Grumman Corp., Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin Corp. and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. Much of these companies' drone operations are based in Southern California, and they would welcome the work at a time when defense spending on weapons is expected to shrink.

The controversy heated up when the Navy first sent classified proposals for the drone program to its contractors. The industry was expecting a bold plan to build radar-evading aircraft capable of challenging bombing missions. But it was apparently not what they received.

Upon seeing the Navy's conservative request for spy plane leaders on the House Armed Services Committee questioned whether the Navy is being too restrictive.

"I feel very strongly that we can't make a mistake on this program," said Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., chairman of a subcommittee that oversees Navy programs. "It's going to be critical for decades to come."

He believes Navy brass is hesitant to turn over strategic bombing missions in contested areas of the world — now carried out by seasoned fighter pilots — to drones.

Forbes said the Navy needs a next-generation drone that will overwhelm potential adversaries that have made multibillion-dollar investments in advanced missiles and radar detection.

Now, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel must assess the requirements before funding of the drone program resumes. Under a provision tucked into the annual defense policy bill, Hagel will either sign off on the current plans or force the Navy to move closer to the stealthy, long-range strike drone that many in Congress desire. It's a debate that has raged in Washington since the advent of drone technology: How much responsibility will be taken from pilots and given to machines?

"There's a cultural issue there," Forbes said. "We've had to have these arguments with the Pentagon before."

He recalled having to push the Air Force to buy remotely piloted Predator drones in the 1990s. The Air Force was at first reluctant, but the program was fueled by pressure from local lawmakers, such as California Republican Reps. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon and Jerry Lewis, who has since retired.

The technology is now a centerpiece in the Obama administration's national security strategy.

Although drones have been a major part of Air Force operations for more than a decade, the Navy has yet to experience such a robotic revolution.

Navy spokesman Joe Gradisher said drone aircraft, which probably would be controlled remotely from the carriers, would eventually perform many missions currently performed by manned aircraft, including bombing missions. But drones will have a secondary role.

"Unmanned enhances manned strike aircraft, but doesn't replace them as the primary strike force as part of the carrier air wing," he said.

The dispute over carrier drones can be traced to an industry demonstration last year of a drone performing crucial maneuvers with pilotlike precision.

The X-47B, a stealthy bat-

Next generation drones

Advanced unmanned aircraft designs by four contractors are in the running for the Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike program.

X-47B UCAS

Northrop Grumman

Speed More than 500 mph
Range 2,400 miles
Altitude 40,000-plus feet
Wingspan 62.1 feet

SEA GHOST

Lockheed Martin

Concept proposal
No specifications available

PHANTOM RAY

Boeing

Speed More than 600 mph
Range 1,540 miles
Altitude 40,000 feet
Wingspan 50 feet

PREDATOR C SEA AVENGER

General Atomics

Speed 460 mph
Range 20 hours
Altitude 50,000 feet
Wingspan 66 feet

SOURCE: The companies

GRAPHIC: Javier Zarracina, Los Angeles Times

MCT

winged drone built by Northrop Grumman, was catapulted off an aircraft carrier's flight deck and soared above the Atlantic before returning for a landing. The historic feat was compared to the Navy's first catapult of a manned aircraft, which occurred in 1915.

"It isn't very often you get a glimpse of the future," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said at the time. "The operational unmanned aircraft soon to be developed have the opportunity to radically change the way presence and combat power are delivered from our aircraft carriers."

Now, there are questions about whether the Navy is going to deliver on that promise.

The cost of the program, known as Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike, is estimated at as much as \$5.9 billion through 2020, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Plans for the Navy's drone pro-

gram come as Congress and the Pentagon are coping with budget uncertainty and expensive weapons systems already in the works.

The Navy has spent more than a decade preparing for its latest generation of manned warplane — the controversial F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The radar-evading jet, built by Lockheed, is scheduled to be a fixture on carrier decks when it becomes operational in 2019.

It's only about halfway through its development plan and plagued by billions of dollars in cost overruns. There has also been a string of technical problems, including a redesign of its arresting hook.

A deep-penetrating stealthy drone that could fly farther and longer could be seen as a potential challenger to the nearly \$400 billion F-35 program. The program has sweeping congressional support because it provides 127,000 direct and indirect jobs in 47 states and Puerto Rico.

Film explores effect of war on soldiers

From wire services

The Korengal Valley in eastern Afghanistan is harsh in nature and war, a bitter and beautiful landscape that bonded a small band of soldiers whose efforts epitomized America's limitations against the antipathy and resilience of an enemy it could neither fathom nor tame.

The burden and euphoria of battle are stamped on the men in "Korengal," Sebastian Junger's new documentary on an outpost where 42 Americans were killed in their country's longest war. The film, a sequel to his 2011 Academy Award-nominated "Restrepo," rattles with camaraderie and bravado but is acutely reflective of the trauma and hidden scars soldiers endure when the adrenaline of a firefight subsides and quiet falls across the hinterlands.

"I started thinking that God hates me," said Army Sgt. Brendan O'Byrne, who has a shaved head and a reddish beard and sits in a dark room recounting his ordeal and finding little solace. "I'm not religious or anything, but I felt like there was this hate for me 'cause I did sins... That's the terrible thing of war. You do terrible things and you have to live with them afterwards but you'd do them the same way if you had to go back. So what do you do? It's an evil, evil, evil thing inside your body. It's like... good versus evil inside there."

"Korengal" moves beyond the sustained combat of "Restrepo" to reveal, the emotional experiences of battle: "fear, killing and love," Junger said. The film peels away war's romanticism and explores the psychological consequences of sustained conflict on mind, body and soul.

The Korengal Valley is a visceral symbol in the 13-year-old war. After hundreds of billions of dollars spent in Afghanistan and more than 2,300 American lives lost, the Taliban are weakened but not defeated, corruption reigns in villages and cities, and the once Western-friendly President Hamid Karzai has turned against Washington. U.S. involvement in that battered country — as in Iraq — has been outlasted by extremists who sweep across stunning mountain passes and refuse to wither against the most powerful military in the world.

Filed in 2007-08, "Korengal" opens in Los Angeles on Friday.

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STARS AND STRIPES.

MILITARY

Survey: Distrust, fear in Texas basic training

By SIG CHRISTENSON
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — A survey of basic training instructors conducted during the worst sex scandal in Air Force history revealed a sharp distrust of senior commanders at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and a widespread fear of recruits.

In occasionally bitter comments, some instructors lashed out at basic training leaders.

They talked of stressful working conditions and declining standards that had made training too easy, with recruits even saying they expected to have a harder time.

The survey, done last year and obtained this week by the San Antonio Express-News, revealed basic training remains haunted by recruit abuse and misconduct, the same issues that prompted a major makeover at Lackland.

Trainers and recruits reported that problems persist, but instructors also said changes designed to ensure that recruits couldn't be exploited by sergeants had gone too far, and many said they were sorry they had become instructors.

"I am terrified I'm going to have my career ended by a trainee that drops a comment because I hurt his feelings or they just don't like me," one instructor wrote in the survey.

"Leadership does not back us up. At all," the instructor continued. "I feel as though (basic training) is overcorrecting and it's actually making the Air Force worse."



Cecilio Ricardo/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A group of 324th Training Squadron basic trainees perform formation and parade drills in preparation for their graduation on Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The Rand Corp. surveyed nearly 200 training instructors anonymously last summer as part of an overhaul of basic training driven by the scandal.

Trainers said instructors often were unsupervised and even worked together to prevent misdeeds from being reported.

Problems ranged from poor officer supervision of instructors to an understaffed MTI corps that worked long hours and rarely had

a day off. Lackland officials last fall said statistics showed the makeover had worked, with no new sexual misconduct cases had been filed against instructors.

Col. Mark Camerer, commander of Lackland's 37th Training Wing, said late Wednesday that changes had corrected a lack of oversight in training, but he conceded they hadn't come without trouble.

"We've gone a long ways to fix-

ing the things that you're talking about," he said, noting that surveys in January and April had produced "vastly different" results from Rand's report.

"So, were we in a tough spot in July of last year? Yes, we were," he continued. "I need my MTIs to know we listen to them."

Rand found that more than half of the instructor corps worked more than 11 hours a day last summer, and that two thirds of

"street" MTIs — those who train recruit flights — slept five hours or less a day.

Another one-third of supervisors and other instructors also said they slept five hours or less a day.

Camerer said he was surprised to learn of the problem, but added that some instructors told him "they just didn't want to leave their flight."

He said the instructors willingly put in extra hours to ensure their flights were properly trained, but a new rule required officer approval for MTIs working more than 10 hours a day.

A number of trainers shared the belief that the rules for handling recruits had shifted so dramatically that the trainees held more power than their instructors.

"I'll give it to you in a nutshell: Trainees run this place, MTIs are afraid constantly of getting in trouble over hurting a spoiled 18-year-olds' feelings, and no one is willing to change that," one instructor wrote.

Instructors also expressed concerns about interaction of Col. Deborah Liddick, commander of the 737th Training Group, with those running the group's eight training squadrons.

One said, "It is very apparent that she does not trust anyone who is an MTI and she continues to discredit the feedback given to her on decisions made."

Other MTIs made similar comments.

Recruitment value of air shows questioned

By CARL PRINE

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Flying free from federal budget cuts that grounded them last year, the Navy's Blue Angels will zoom at Mach-1 over the Latrobe, Pa., area on Sunday at the Westmoreland County Air Show.

But even at 700 mph, the Navy demigods — or other flashy military demonstration teams — can't outrun questions about their future.

Congress is debating whether those teams land enough recruits to justify multimillion-dollar costs, especially in an era of Pentagon austerity. The sequestration budget deal between Congress and the White House is expected to trim \$45 billion annually from the defense budget, and lawmakers have slashed other noncombat programs such as ceremonial bands.

A Tribune-Review analysis of Defense spending on the Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds puts combined annual expenses at \$70 million to \$140 million, depending on how the budgets are calculated. The budget for the Army's Golden Knights is \$303,000 this year

without personnel costs, down 25 percent since 2012.

Military officials defend the teams as time-honored institutions that work youngsters into uniforms.

Yet some experts say there's no way to track whether air shows lead to enlistments.

"We know that people who go to military air shows likely have served, or have no negative feelings about military service, and they're willing to reinforce that by taking their children to events like parades or air shows," said David Segal, a University of Maryland sociologist and armed forces expert.

"There probably is a payoff there, but we don't know what it is yet. The only way to study that would be to ask people, year after year, whether they went to an air show and whether it influenced their decisions as young adults to enlist."

The Navy and Air Force teams take turns headlining about 70 of the more than 300 air shows held annually in the United States, according to the Virginia-based International Council of Air Shows, the industry's trade organization.

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MILITARY

Sailors urged to use tuition program

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy hopes more sailors will take advantage of tuition assistance now that the service has dropped plans to slash the often-targeted \$86 million program.

Ernest D'Antonio, the civilian who leads the Navy's Voluntary Education program, touted the program Thursday while he was in Naples for a graduation ceremony.

"It's something that's important to sailors," D'Antonio told Stars and Stripes. "The Navy was the only service during sequestration that didn't stop TA."

Though the Navy considered scaling back the program after similar moves by the other services, Chief of Naval Operations Jonathan W. Greenert rejected

the idea for fiscal 2015 but said changes could come in the following years.

Each of the four military services offers a tuition-assistance program, which pays for servicemembers to pursue GEDs or college degrees while still in uniform. Unlike the post-Sept. 11 GI Bill, which is a lifetime benefit, tuition assistance is available only to troops who are currently serving.

The programs have long been in place, but all were sweetened early in the past decade as the services sought to attract and retain troops during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Navy program now pays for 100 percent of the cost of classes, with an annual maximum of \$4,000 for 16 credits per year, or \$250 per credit. Sailors

can choose any distance class or program from schools approved by the Defense and Education departments.

Tighter budgets and the drawdown of deployed troops encouraged the services to reconsider the programs.

The Army, the Marines and the Air Force all briefly suspended their tuition assistance programs in 2013 after the automatic defense cuts known as sequestration began. The subsequent outcry from servicemembers, military advocates and Congress spurred the DOD to restore the benefit soon after. The three services later adjusted eligibility, while the Navy continued to offer a full benefit.

In March, the Navy floated an adjustment to its own program by returning to the funding for-

mula in place before 2002. Under the plan, a sailor would pay for 25 percent of the class, with the Navy picking up the remaining 75 percent.

D'Antonio, like Greenert, said a 75/25 split would force sailors to put "skin in the game," encouraging completion of degree programs. He said data suggest that completion rates were higher before 2002, when full funding of classes was offered.

About 45,000 sailors enroll in the program annually, D'Antonio said. Spending this year has been slower than normal due to the government shutdown in October, leaving more money than is typical for the summer.

"We have TA money available," D'Antonio emphasized.

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Air Force proposes fixes for nuke force

At a time when budgets are shrinking and headquarters staffs are being pared back, the Air Force wants to upgrade Global Strike Command from a three-star to a four-star billet and add 1,100 people to the organization, the service announced last week.

Readers respond:

I agree. Additional general stars is always the best way to solve discipline problems. (written in 'sarcasm' font). Good job USAF, parlaying a problem into an opportunity.

— charliemik1776

DOD as a whole now has 37 four-stars on the payroll out of 907 generals/admirals. The USAF has 11 four-stars and 287 generals. And add 1,100 people to the organization? This is grade-creep at its finest.

— efmbran

[H]aving watched the 60 Minutes segment on these folks a few weeks ago, I have to say that they serve under really lousy commo/tech conditions, unless that episode was the anomaly... That kind of absurdly poor working conditions simply wears people down...

— tiredpfc

Try working in 1970's buildings in the Weapons Storage Areas where enlisted folks use test sets that are 40 years old in buildings where the concrete falls off the ceilings. They don't whine and they don't get on 60 Minutes. And they don't cheat.

— SempliceCittadino

A friend had the job of destroying everything electronic in Silos that were being decommissioned, and described some of them as very toxic, with wiring that had crumbling insulation. Yet he explained that they had a crew just a year before, who spent long shifts exposing their bodies to god knows what.

— davidhollenshead

Join the fray at:
stripes.com/go/nukefixes

Combat aviation unit arrives in S. Korea

By ARMANDO R. LIMON
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — More than 300 combat aviation brigade soldiers arrived at Osan Air Base on Tuesday, a continuation of efforts to maintain a strong U.S. military's presence on the peninsula.

Members of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade's 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment will replace soldiers from 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment with a transition ceremony later this month, according to the 2nd Infantry Division.

It's the second rotation of U.S. forces from the States to come to South Korea this year. Some 800 members of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas, arrived in January for a deployment to Camps Hovey and Stanley, both north of Seoul.

That unit brought about 40 M1A2 Abrams tanks and 40 M2A3 Bradleys, which will remain in Korea for follow-on rotations, Army officials said. Similarly, the Fort Winnwright, Alaska-based aviation unit that arrived this week will crew 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters already in-country, the 8th Army said in a statement.

"We are using the equipment being left in place by the current rotational aviation unit," said Lt. Col. Matthew F. Ketchum, 6-17th Cavalry Regiment commander. "The Regiment is fully trained and prepared to conduct real-time missions."

U.S. officials have described the rotations as a "strictly defensive" movement designed



JAe HYUNG PARK/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers of the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade arrive at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Tuesday.

to increase readiness and to strengthen U.S. and South Korean capabilities.

The U.S. military has maintained a force level of 28,500 in South Korea since 2008, when it halted a long-term drawdown to 25,000 troops at Seoul's request. Because such deployments are considered a temporary duty assignment and not a change of duty station, its personnel are not counted toward U.S. Forces Korea's strength capacity, 8th Army officials said in January.

In a country where the presence of U.S.

troops remains a sensitive topic and officials take pains to portray routine military exercises as nonthreatening to the North, South Korean officials also have been reluctant to address the U.S. troop levels.

During its rotation, the 6-17th will fall under the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd ID officials said.

The 4-6th Cavalry Regiment is scheduled to return to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., during the next couple of months.

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Airman gets prison, discharge in drunken-driving death

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An airman assigned to Aviano Air Base, Italy, is headed to prison for crashing his car while driving drunk last summer and causing the death of his passenger, a fellow airman.

Airman Demarrus R. Jeffers received a prison sentence of two years and six months at a court-martial before a military judge and no jury Tuesday at Aviano,

according to information provided by Capt. Lacie Jo Collins, an Aviano base spokeswoman.

Jeffers pleaded guilty to drunken driving and involuntary manslaughter.

Killed in the crash last June was Airman 1st Class Dennis A. Felton II, 21, of Cleveland. A member of the 31st Security Forces Squadron, Felton died only four months after arriving at Aviano, his first duty station. He joined the Air Force in August 2012.

Jeffers, a traffic management

journeyman assigned to the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron, also was reduced in rank to airman basic and was given a bad-conduct discharge from the Air Force, according to information from Collins.

With a blood-alcohol concentration of at least 0.10 percent, Jeffers on June 2, 2013, was driving his vehicle about twice the posted speed limit when he veered into oncoming traffic, drove off the road and crashed, according to the charge sheet in the case. The

accident occurred about 5 a.m. off base, near the intersection of what Americans refer to as the "A-P highway" (SP-7) and Via Menozzo, not far from the base's north gate.

Felton was a passenger in the vehicle's front seat, the charge sheet says.

Hundreds of airmen and friends attended a memorial service for Felton at Aviano last June, according to an Air Force news release.

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MILITARY

Senate overwhelmingly passes VA reform

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate overwhelmingly passed a compromise bill Wednesday aimed at reforming the nation's troubled health care system for veterans, the latest move by lawmakers to fix a problem in the wake of a scheduling scandal.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., expands access to private treatment, increases the number of VA doctors and hospitals, and gives the department more power to fire executives.

"If it is not an emergency that we have neglected the brave men and women that have served this country, then I don't know what

an emergency is," McCain said during a speech on the Senate floor Wednesday.

The Senate passed the bill 93-2. Similar measures already have been passed with overwhelming support in the House, and now the two chambers will hold a conference to hammer out a final VA proposal to send to President Barack Obama, which could happen as early as next week.

The White House's Office of Management and Budget released a statement following the Senate vote saying it strongly supports the legislation.

More than 57,000 veterans have been waiting more than three months for VA health care at 731 hospitals and clinics across the country, according to a depart-

ment audit released Monday.

The VA attempted to conceal the wait times by falsifying records at many facilities, the VA's inspector general reported last month.

The department said this week that about 70 percent of its health care facilities used off-the-books patient waiting lists at least once, and management pressured staff in some cases to manipulate appointments to make waits appear shorter.

The VA's IG and the Department of Justice are weighing criminal charges, and The Associated Press reported Wednesday that the FBI is also investigating.

McCain and Sanders said the compromise bill passed Wednesday is not a fix-all for the VA's

deep problems.

"It is not the end of the beginning, but it is a beginning," McCain said.

Here is what the bill would do:

- Vets who cannot get appointments for timely care and live more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility may opt for private care.

- The VA secretary would get the power to fire senior executives without pay during a two-week appeal period.

- The VA would get \$500 million for hiring doctors and nurses.
- Leases would be approved for 26 new major medical facilities in 18 states.

- Sexual assault treatment would be expanded.
- Commissions would be creat-

ed to review antiquated VA computer systems and construction programs.

On Tuesday, the House passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., allowing expanded access to veterans who live more than 40 miles from VA facilities. That distance was taken from the standard hospital service area used by military health care provider TriCare, according to McCain's staff.

The House had earlier approved a bill allowing the VA secretary wider power to fire executives, saying the measure is needed to clear out an entrenched bureaucracy responsible for the scheduling abuses.

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VA, IG warn against rushing veterans into private health care

By TOM PHILPOTT

A report by the Department of Veterans Affairs' inspector general and a separate "access audit" of appointment scheduling practices across VA health care facilities confirm systemwide abuses to distort wait times for care that have put patients at risk and have shaken confidence in how VA hospitals and clinics are staffed, managed and resourced.

Yet even as the acting IG and another senior VA official confirmed the depth of the patient wait-time scandal Monday at a hearing of the House veterans affairs committee, as well as possible criminal activity by some administrators, they cautioned elite lawmakers against sending thousands more VA patients into the private sector for health care needs.

The cautionary flags haven't slowed Congress. On Tuesday, the House unanimously passed the Veterans Access to Care Act (HR 4810) from Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., the VA committee chairman. It would require VA to offer non-VA care to enrolled veterans who cannot get appointments within VA wait times or who live more than 40 miles from VA medical facilities.

On Wednesday, the Senate voted 93-3 for similar language as part of a more comprehensive bill, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (S 2450), from Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the VA committee chairman, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

The VA already spends 10 percent of its health care budget, about \$5 billion per year, on private sector care. In 2013, the VA authorized and reimbursed for 1.5 million non-VA outpatient visits, a 72 percent increase since 2008. Eligibility for such care is complex, however, and varies by veteran status and circumstance. Preauthorization usually is required.

In response to the appointments scandal, Congress wants the VA to experiment for two years

MILITARY UPDATE

with giving many more veterans access to non-VA care. Veterans service organizations long have feared such moves as a step toward dismantling their prized, fully integrated VA health system. Big-government critics say it will improve access to care and will save tax dollars.

At Monday's hearing, VA officials, including the acting inspector general and a health expert from the Government Accountability Office, warned against a rush of veterans into private sector care, saying it could backfire if not carefully coordinated and properly resourced.

Testifying on results of a VA flash audit of patient access and wait times, Philip Matkovsky, assistant deputy under secretary for health administrative operations, apologized on behalf of VA leaders for a "systemic and totally unacceptable lack of integrity" found in appointments to processing at some facilities, calling it "a breach of trust" and "indefensible."

He also described a \$300 million initiative to accelerate access to care in coming months with more medical staff overtime, expansion of VA clinic hours and more referrals to private sector providers as necessary.

Many VA facilities are believed to have manipulated wait-time goals to pretend to meet internal goals for providing timely access to care, which then would qualify senior staff for performance bonuses and promotions.

Richard J. Griffin, the acting IG, testified that in addition to the Phoenix VA hospital where a whistle-blowing physician first exposed data manipulation and alleged it had led to preventable deaths, IG teams were investigating 69 other VA facilities where there was evidence of data manipulation.

Griffin described two methods used to disguise actual wait times. The most common begins with a veteran calling for an appointment "120 days out, because that's the first available" and yet that appointment gets scored as being the veteran's desired date. The facility then posts "zero waiting days," though the veteran actually waited four months.

"The other scenario is you get that appointment 120 days out. Two weeks before that appointment, it gets cancelled in the system and it gets recreated," Griffin said. "The veteran is no wiser to the fact his appointment was canceled because it's been recreated for the same time and date." But the appointment log shows a wait of two weeks, not 120 days.

In Phoenix, the IG reviewed a statistically valid sample of 226 appointments for primary care. On average, patients waited 115 days for appointments. Only 16 percent were seen within the VA goal of 14 days. What the facility reported for those patients was an average wait of 24 days, with 57

percent treated within 14 days.

"Those are similar to what we found," Matkovsky said of a nationwide "access audit" VA recently ran across more than 730 hospitals and clinics.

The IG report is preliminary and doesn't answer whether vets died from delays in diagnosis or treatment. That will require analysis of VA and non-VA medical records, death certificates and autopsy reports by IG clinical teams. The IG is coordinating those investigations with the FBI.

Only one confirmed death from scheduling delays was discussed at Monday's hearing. Debra A. Draper, director of health care for the Government Accountability Office, used it as a cautionary tale for lawmakers pressing to give veterans easier access to private sector care.

Last September, she said, the VA diagnosed a veteran as having two aneurysms and scheduled heart surgery. A November operation was canceled due to VA staffing issues. In December, the VA approved non-VA care, refer-

ring the patient to a local hospital. By late December, the non-VA care provider had lost the veteran's information, so the VA had to resubmit its surgery request. In February, before surgery could be performed, the veteran died.

Use of more non-VA care will expand capacity, but there are "potential pitfalls," Draper said. For example, the VA doesn't track wait times for non-VA care, so it cannot estimate what waits will be.

Griffin and Matkovsky also raised caution flags. The IG noted the value of an integrated health system to care for vets with multiple conditions. Matkovsky said transferring records with non-VA providers remains a hurdle.

"We need to ensure that there is sufficient non-VA care coordination staff in facilities," Matkovsky warned. "You can't simply feed into community [care] and assume it's going to take place. We have to coordinate that care."

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 251111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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NATION

Obama: Immigration plans not impossible

By JIM KUHNHEHN
The Associated Press

WESTON, Mass. — Vowing not to give up on an overhaul of immigration, President Barack Obama said Wednesday that he “fundamentally rejects” the notion that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor’s stunning primary election defeat means that tackling immigration legislation is now out of reach.

“It’s interesting to listen to the pundits and the analysts, and some conventional wisdom talks about how the politics of immigration reform seem impossible now,” Obama told about 40 big-dollar donors in this Boston suburb. “I fundamentally reject that and I will tell the speaker of the House he needs to reject it.”

Cantor, of Virginia, lost his Republican primary race to Dave Brat, an economics professor who was backed by the tea party. Brat labeled Cantor a supporter of amnesty for immigrants who are in the country illegally. Cantor initially backed limited legislation to help young people who came to the U.S. illegally as children and argued he was a staunch opponent of amnesty.

Josh Earnest, a White House spokesman, pointed out that Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., had

been deeply involved in passing the Senate immigration bill and still defeated a slew of primary opponents Tuesday night.

The Democratic-controlled Senate already has passed a sweeping bipartisan immigration bill that increases border security and provides a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants who entered the country illegally. The Republican-controlled House, led by Speaker John Boehner, of Ohio, has yet to act in the face of stiff opposition from conservatives.

Before meeting with donors Obama delivered a commencement address at a technical school in Worcester, where he said 30 percent to 40 percent of the students were children of immigrants.

“You wouldn’t know it looking at them because they are as American as apple pie,” he told the donors. “They’re worried about whether they’re going to be able to finance their education because of their immigrant status. They wonder whether this country that they love so deeply loves them back.”

Obama joked that when he is asked what he wants for Father’s Day or Christmas on his birthday, he says the top of his list is a “loyal, rational opposition,” one with which he could negotiate and compromise.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., leaves a news conference Wednesday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

For White House, little joy in defeat of Cantor

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For years, the White House saw House Majority Leader Eric Cantor as a chief driver of Republicans’ staunch opposition to nearly all of President Barack Obama’s agenda. Now, Cantor’s stunning primary loss seems likely to make politics even more difficult for Obama.

Rather than opening a pathway for the president, Cantor’s defeat could push Republicans more to the right and harden the House GOP’s hostility toward the White House, virtually dooming Obama’s efforts to pass a legacy-building immigration bill or other major legislation.

Robert Gibbs, a longtime Obama adviser, said any glee at

the White House over Cantor’s defeat was “quickly replaced by the reality that this is the end of anything productive getting done legislatively in Congress either this year or maybe for the next several years.”

Cantor, the No. 2 Republican in the House, was soundly defeated by his tea party-backed opponent, a little-known economics professor named David Brat, in Virginia’s GOP primary Tuesday. Despite being massively outspent by Cantor, Brat rode a wave of public anger over calls for more lenient immigration laws, reducing the prospects that already reluctant House Republicans might take up a bill this year.

The day after his defeat, Cantor announced he would serve out his term but would resign his leader-

ship post this summer, sparking a flurry of maneuvering among GOP lawmakers eager to take his spot.

Cantor threw his support behind Rep. Kevin McCarthy, of California, the House GOP whip and third-ranking leader. Rep. Pete Sessions of Texas also made clear his interest in being considered when House Republicans vote on a new majority leader on June 19.

Cantor’s surprise defeat was accompanied by a steady stream of gloating commentary from congressional Democrats and party operatives who saw the downfall of a top Republican leader as a coveted prize in this midterm election year. Yet, Brat, the winner of the race, promises to be even more uncompromising than Cantor.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

President Obama stands for the National Anthem during the graduation ceremony for Worcester Technical High School on Wednesday in Worcester, Mass.

Survey: Americans’ political polarization outgrows the voting booth

By JENNIFER AGIESTA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Political polarization in America has broken out of the voting booth.

A new survey from the Pew Research Center finds Americans are divided by ideology and partisanship not only when they cast ballots, but also in choosing where to live, where to get their news and with whom to associate.

And peaceful coexistence is increasingly difficult.

According to the poll, the share of Americans who hold across-the-board conservative or liberal views has doubled in the past decade, from 10 percent in 2004 to

21 percent today. Only 39 percent of Americans have an even mix of liberal and conservative positions, down from 49 percent 10 years ago.

The numbers of ideological purists are larger among the politically engaged than the general public, suggesting the ideological stalemates that have become more common in Washington and stateshouses around the country are likely to continue. A third of those who say they regularly vote in primaries have all-or-nothing ideological views, as do 41 percent who say they have donated money to campaigns.

Among partisans, ideological purity is now the standard.

Majorities in both parties hold either uniformly liberal (on the Democratic side) or conservative (among the GOP) views.

The shift toward ideological purity has been more visible among Republicans due to the popularity of the tea party, seen most recently this week in House Majority Leader Eric Cantor’s loss to a tea party-based challenger in Virginia, but the survey found it’s happening in nearly equal measure among Democrats.

Those differences in visibility are partly due to the Democratic hold on the White House, according to Pew Research Center Vice President Michael Dimock.

“Levels of alarm about the di-

rection of the nation, and about the ‘threat’ the other party poses to the country, are substantially higher on the right than on the left right now, and at least in part this reflects the fact that Barack Obama is in the White House,” Dimock said.

But Democrats have expressed their share of distrust in the past, he noted in an email. “Democrats felt pretty passionately about George W. Bush and the GOP in his second term,” he said.

The survey used a battery of 10 questions on issues such as regulation of business, use of the military, the environment and immigration to assess ideological leanings. Across nine of

the 10 issues tested, the views of Democrats and Republicans have grown further apart since 1994.

Those ideological shifts have been accompanied by increasing animosity across party lines, and those on opposite sides of the partisan and ideological divide are now more apt to separate themselves in their personal lives as well.

The findings are based on a telephone survey of 10,013 randomly selected adults nationwide, conducted between Jan. 23 and March 16. Results based on the full sample have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 1.1 percentage points.

NATION



PROVIDED BY THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION/AP

Samantha Barbash is escorted by law enforcement officers following her arrest Monday in New York.

Feds: NYC strippers schemed to drug, steal from rich men

By Tom Hays

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's a tawdry tale of New York City strippers on the prowl for men with money, drinks spiked with illegal synthetic drugs and runaway credit card charges at topless clubs.

Some of the men say they have little or no memory of any of it. Investigators filled in the blanks for them Wednesday by announcing the arrests of four women — all described as professional strippers — and a club manager on charges including grand larceny, assault and forgery.

The five were accused of teaming up to rip off a combined \$200,000 from a New Jersey doctor, a banker, a hedge fund executive and a real estate attorney in a credit card scam during the last four months of 2013.

None of the victims was named in court papers. A lawyer for Dr.

Zyad Younan, a cardiologist at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, identified his client as one of them.

One of the women, Karina Pascucci, and the manager, Carmine Vitolo, pleaded not guilty on Wednesday in state court in Manhattan. The other three defendants, including suspected ringleader Samantha Barbash, were arraigned Tuesday.

Barbash's attorney, Stephen Murphy, said Wednesday that his client denies the charges. Pascucci's lawyer, Patrick Parrotta, said his client is a college student with no criminal record who worked as a waitress at Scores in Manhattan but never stripped there. A lawyer for Vitolo, Murray Richman, denied charges the club manager helped set up the men.

According to Drug Enforcement Administration and New York Police Department investigators, the scheme began with the

women going on "fishing" expeditions at bars in midtown Manhattan and on Long Island to lure in victims. On follow-up dates, they secretly dosed the victim's drinks with the stimulant methylene, commonly known as "molly," or the tranquilizer ketamine.

The dazed and confused victims were driven to Scores and the RoadHouse in Queens, where their credit cards were swiped and unauthorized charges recorded, some as high as \$50,000. The clubs paid the women a fee, but the establishments were not facing criminal charges, authorities said.

The men reported waking up in their cars or in hotel rooms, wondering how they got there. Those who tried to dispute the strip club bills received texts from the strippers threatening to go public with their transgressions, authorities said.

Texas governor compares gays, alcoholics

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Texas Gov. Rick Perry, during a visit that focused primarily on economic issues, drew on a reference to alcoholism to explain his view of homosexuality.

Perry's comments to the Commonwealth Club of California came after Texas' Republican Convention on Saturday sanctioned platform language allowing Texans to seek voluntary counseling to "cure" being gay.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that in response to a question about it, Perry said he

did not know whether the therapy worked.

Perry, a former and potential future GOP presidential candidate, then was asked whether he believed homosexuality was a disorder.

The paper said that the governor responded that "whether or not you feel compelled to follow a particular lifestyle or not, you have the ability to decide not to do that."

He said, "I may have the genetic coding that I'm inclined to be an alcoholic, but I have the desire not to do that, and I look at the ho-

mosexual issue the same way."

The Texas Republican platform stand on the issue is in contrast to California and New Jersey, which previously have banned licensed professionals from providing such therapy to minors.

During the bulk of his talk, Perry held up his own state as a model for responsible energy production and economic growth in California.

Perry said he believes Texas is leading the way in achieving energy independence by producing crude oil and electricity in many forms, including solar power.

Some states roll back protections of teacher tenure

By Kimberly Heffling

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even before a judge's scathing ruling against California's teacher tenure policies, the once-sacred protections that make it harder to fire teachers already had been weakened in many states — and even removed altogether in some places.

Florida, for example, put all teachers hired after 2011 on annual teaching contracts, which essentially did away with tenure protections.

Kansas and North Carolina also are seeking to eliminate tenure or to phase it out. The nonpartisan Education Commission of the States, which highlighted the changes in a recent report, says 16 states — up from 10 in 2011 — now require the results of teacher evaluations to be used in determining whether to renew tenure.

Not all changes have stuck, and few are without a political fight.

Teacher tenure protections were established in the 20th century to protect teachers from arbitrary or discriminatory firings based on factors such as seniority, nationality or political beliefs. They spell out rules under which teachers may be dismissed after they pass a probationary period. Critics say the tenure protections make it too difficult to fire ineffective teachers.

The debate over teacher tenure comes as many states, propelled by Obama administration-led incentives, develop more meaningful teacher evaluation systems that seek to provide a more ac-

curate picture of student learning under a teacher. Using such systems, the Education Commission of the States says seven states make teachers return to probationary status if they are rated "ineffective," meaning they have no assurances their contracts will be renewed at the end of the school year.

"A good number of states have effectively done away with tenure through their new evaluation systems that include measurements of student achievement," said Michelle Exstrom, education program director at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

On Tuesday, Superior Court Judge Rolf Treu in Los Angeles sided with nine students who sued to overturn California statutes governing teacher hiring and firing, saying they served no compelling purpose and had led to an unfair, nonsensical system that drove excellent new teachers from the classroom too soon and kept incompetent senior ones. The practices harm students in a way that "shocks the conscience" and have "a disproportionate burden on poor and minority students," the judge wrote.

While the ruling affects just California, proponents of rolling back tenure protections say the landscape is ripe for change. They predict the judge's ruling will spur a flood of new legislative action and more lawsuits. They say that too often, all K-12 teachers have to do is show up for work for a set period of time to earn tenure protection.

Suspect's friends puzzle over Ore. school shooting

By Gosia Woziacka

The Associated Press

TROUTDALE, Ore. — Jared Michael Padgett was a straight-arrow kid who had a fascination with guns, planned a career in the military and was deeply devoted to his Mormon faith, those who knew him say.

And they're all wondering why the 15-year-old took an assault rifle, a handgun and nine ammunition magazines to his high school and killed a fellow freshman, injured a teacher and took his own life.

Police said Wednesday that they have not been able to establish a link between Padgett and Emilio Hoffman, 14, who was shot dead in a locker room.

Police have not said whether they believe Padgett had a specific target when he arrived at Reyn-

olds High School in Troutdale on Tuesday morning or planned a random shooting.

Padgett was passionate about guns and had a temper, but he also seemed like a nice and normal student, friends say. "He always talked about guns," said Kaylah Ensign, a student who had a class with Padgett and was a close friend of the victim. She said Padgett could be kind and respectful but sometimes got angry.

"He helped kids, and I never would have thought he would do that," Ensign said. "And he was really neat."

Freshman Daniel DeLong, 15, said he would see Padgett in the halls but did not have any classes with him.

"Honestly, he looked like a really nice kid, like somebody you'd want to have on your side," DeLong said.

NATION



A loggerhead sea turtle peeks out from its holding tank while volunteer Jeff Rolke and Stranding Technician Marcia Thomas tend to another injured loggerhead at the Mid-Atlantic Marine Conservation Center. Below, a rescued Kemp's ridley sea turtle named Dionysis.

PHOTOS BY JAY DIEM, EASTERN SHORE NEWS/AP

Aquarium mission: Rescue, research

Virginia stranding team seeks to save marine animals, or learn from their loss

By TED SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore (Virginia) News

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The mystery began with a telephone call on an otherwise normal Wednesday to the Mid-Atlantic Marine Conservation Center, a plain building on a dead-end street near the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

A whale 30 feet in length was on a sandy shoal in the Chesapeake Bay near the state line that separates Maryland and Virginia, several hours away.

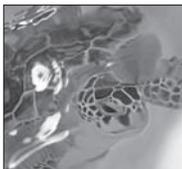
Maggie Lynott, who manages stranding responses, receives similar calls frequently. Last year, an "unusual mortality event" affected bottlenose dolphins along the East Coast, making 2013 the busiest year the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team has ever had.

Of the 427 stranded dolphins the conservation center responded to in 2013, more than 28 percent were found along the hundreds of miles of coastline on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Whale strandings are different. Unlike the dolphin strandings, which were caused by a virus, the cause of the whale's demise was less clear, and its carcass was harder to access.

"These can present pretty challenging responses," Lynott said. "Large whale response requires a lot of logistics."

The next day, center staff members and volunteers flew to Tangier Island and boated to the whale, which was deceased. Two days later, another group of staff members and volunteers arrived to collect samples



“Every stranding presents a great opportunity to learn. We don’t want them to wash up on shore, but we don’t want to have that happen in vain.”

Maggie Lynott

Stranding response manager

in an effort to learn how the animal died.

It was yet another trip for specialists to the Eastern Shore, where the center, which operates under the Virginia Aquarium, has a primary role in helping marine mammals and sea turtles in need.

While the popular aquarium is known for its 800,000 gallons of exhibits, IMAX Theater and more, the stranding team and the conservation center work behind the scenes and out in the field to protect and study marine life.

Unlike Maryland's or North Carolina's, Virginia's government is one of the few that has not created a state-supported marine stranding program.

The conservation center and stranding team rely on donations and grants to conduct their work, a lot of which historically has been focused on Northampton and Accomack counties.

"Our team is always over there," said Joan Barns, an aquarium spokeswoman.

Three of the 10 turtles being rehabilitated in the center on a recent day were

found in distress on the Eastern Shore. All are Kemp's ridley turtles, the most endangered.

Roughly once each summer during recent years, the stranding team has come to the Eastern Shore to investigate a beached whale.

Center representatives took samples of all the animals for study. One of its misunderstood missions is using the carcasses for a better understanding of the animals.

Even if the animal isn't saved, good can still come from it.

"Every stranding presents a great opportunity to learn," Lynott said. "We don't want them to wash up on shore, but we don't want to have that happen in vain."

During summer 2010, a crowd of hundreds gathered at the Cape Charles beachfront as 12 sea turtles rehabilitated at the conservation center were released into the Chesapeake Bay.

Not only was the event a success story, "it was an opportunity for us to educate the public," Barns said.

Harsh winter temperatures that hit the Eastern Shore left two sea turtles cold, stunned and beached in Northampton County late last year.

The turtles are among those being rehabilitated in large swimming pool-style tanks at the conservation center.

Some of the turtles being rehabilitated will be unable to live in the wild and will be moved to an aquarium.

The turtles that are returned to the sea are equipped with a satellite transmitter so the conservation center can study whether they adapt to their previous lifestyles. Officials can track their swim and migration patterns and find that almost all rehabilitated turtles resume their normal lifestyles.

Barns said the care and patience given to the stranded animals is a reflection on the staff, some of whom began at the conservation center during internships and were offered full-time employment later.

"It's a truly, truly dedicated group of people," Barns said.

While Barns and others acknowledge the rescues seem to make headlines, usually the animals found by the stranding team have died. Data collection takes place so researchers can form a better understanding of them.

While the research and data collection help with the ever-growing knowledge of whales like the one stranded near the state line in February, sometimes a specific cause of death remains forever a mystery.

NATION

Public art exhibit puts New York's homeless on display

By ULA ILNYTZKY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Best known for his provocative images, photographer Andres Serrano has turned his attention to putting a very public face on New York City's skyrocketing homeless population.

His stark portraits of individuals who live on the street appear in some of the very locations that his subjects often populate—a subway station, a park, a church. They're also inside 50 phone booths and bus stop shelters around Manhattan.

"I wanted to pay homage to them and put them somewhere visible where people could actually see the faces of the people you encounter on the street that you normally don't look at," Serrano said.

Serrano captures the direct gaze of these men and women, which we too often attempt to avert our eyes from.

Mary Brosnahan
Coalition for the Homeless

of studio-style photographs of homeless people titled "Nomads."

This time, "I wanted to record and document them the way I found them on the street," said Serrano, who shot with film for six weeks in January and February.

The native New Yorker said he had never seen more homeless people on the city's streets.

The number of people without permanent homes has skyrocketed in recent years and as of last week more than 53,000 people slept in city shelters, according to city officials, who unveiled a multimillion-dollar program to address the problem.

The most dramatic display in "Residents of New York" is at the West Fourth Street subway station in Greenwich Village, where all 35 poster-sized photographs line two corridors and the entrance. Among the many faces is that of a 27-year-old man who posed with his wife and died of liver complications two weeks after the photo was taken.

"Serrano captures the direct gaze of these men and women, which we too often attempt to avert our eyes from," said Mary Brosnahan, president and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless.

Serrano said he got no resistance about taking the pictures, saying the homeless "were happy to be asked to be a part of something. Normally, they're ignored."

Vince Verdi walks past photos of homeless people displayed at the West 4th Street subway station in New York.

PHOTOS BY KATHY WILLENS/AP



Jeremy Connolly said: "It's frightful. We spend literally billions on elections, but we don't spend money on people."



Andi Porzio pauses to look at Andres Serrano's photos.



FACES ON THE STREETS

Andrene Simuel said: "It's deep. You feel it."



FAITH



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN S. LANDAY/MCT

Residents of the Old City of Homs, Syria, survey the damage to their homes three weeks after a truce and rebel withdrawal ended a siege by Syrian government forces.

Dutch priest aided Syrians in rebel siege

Minister killed by gunman often counseled Christians and Muslims

By JONATHAN S. LANDAY
McClatchy Washington Bureau

And then there were 23. Just 23 Christians, most of them elderly, left alive in the besieged Old City of Homs when a masked gunman killed the beloved Dutch priest who'd consoled them during nearly two years of government bombardment and rebel-imposed isolation, when food supplies disappeared, when the lone doctor fell ill with cancer. Throughout it all, he counseled hope.

"I drank scotch with him almost daily," recalled George Ibrahim, 75, who'd rescued a stash of Johnnie Walker Black Label from his shop. "He'd have just one glass. Near the end, I was talking to Father Frans and he was telling me to be patient. This is going to stop. It's like he knew there would be an end to many things."

That end came in early May when the government and rebels agreed to a truce and the rebels pulled out. But the Rev. Frans van der Lugt was not there to mark the transition. He'd been gunned down 31 days earlier, April 7,

in the Jesuit monastery that he refused to abandon, even when boiled grass and leaves were all that was left to eat. Now, as life returns to the ruined heart of what's been dubbed the "capital of the revolution" against President Bashar Assad, the priest's presence runs like a bright current through the tales of privation from those who survived.

"Father Frans was neutral. He didn't back any side," said George Ghandour, 45, who helped bury van der Lugt's body only steps from the spot in the shaded courtyard where he died. "He aided everyone, Christian and Muslim, young and old. When the crisis began, five Muslim families moved into the monastery and he took care of them."

The reason for van der Lugt's slaying is unknown. The esteem in which he was held by Homs' majority Sunni Muslims makes the murder all the more perplexing to six Christian survivors of the siege interviewed by McClatchy during a two-day visit to their neighborhood of Hamadiya.

When fighting began in Homs in May 2011, there were 60,000



The grave of the Rev. Frans van der Lugt, a Jesuit priest who aided Christians and Muslims during the Syrian army siege of the Old City of Homs.

Christians living in the Old City. As the fighting raged, and the rebels lost ground in other districts, they were pushed into the Old City. Most of the Christian population fled. By June 2012, when rebels closed the exits to prevent more people from leaving, only 102 Christians remained.

The rebels and the local population lived uneasily together. Then,

late last year, as the insurgents became increasingly desperate as their food stocks dwindled, things changed. Christians began facing beatings, threats and thefts of their own meager supplies.

The only witness to van der Lugt's murder — who declined to be interviewed — told others that the lone gunman fired a single AK-47 shot into the priest's head after ordering him to sit in a plastic chair in the monastery courtyard. The killer then left without a word.

The gunman "insisted on seeing him but he was told that Father Frans doesn't come out before 10 a.m. Father Frans heard the voices, came out and asked what's going on," said Nazam Kanawati, 50, a civil engineer who arrived minutes after the slaying. "The gunman said, 'You should come with me.' Father Frans replied, 'I'm not going with you, especially when I can't see your face.'"

"The gunman said, 'Oh, you're not coming? Then sit down.' He arrived with the gun already cocked. He just shot him," Kanawati said.

Van der Lugt was the Christians' interface with the rebels, survivors said. He'd persuade the rebels to share some of the food they brought in with ammunition through their tunnels. He'd also arrange evacuations of the sick and injured and the smuggling of

medical supplies.

"He was a man of peace and because he wasn't Syrian, those people (rebels) liked to talk to him," said the Rev. Ziyad Hilal, a Jesuit colleague of van der Lugt. "He had this power to listen to others. Nobody had a problem with him before or during this situation."

Zaynat al Akhras, 65, recalls the precise date the rebels sealed the neighborhood — June 8, 2012.

"People had been going in and out," she recalled, sitting amid piles of dusty books and other belongings in the apartment she said she left only four times after that date. "We had food and everything. But after that, no food was coming in. The rebels wouldn't allow anyone out."

As the rebels' own food ran low, survivors said, the rebels began pressuring Frans to make a video appeal to Pope Francis that could be posted on the Internet.

"The rebels thought Father Frans had the power to ask the pope to send food and the food would be here the next day," said Kanawati. "But he refused. He did not want to use the Christian community or his power to get food for them. He didn't want the Christians used."

Eventually, van der Lugt agreed to make the video, but he "asked for food for everyone.

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WORLD

Officials: 2 US drone strikes in Pakistan

BY ASIF SHAHZAD
AND REBECCA SANTANA
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Missiles from U.S. drones slammed into militant hideouts overnight in northwestern Pakistan, killing 13 suspected insurgents and marking the resumption of the CIA-led program after a nearly six-month break, officials said Thursday.

The two separate drone strikes sparked swift condemnation by the Pakistani government. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement the strikes are a violation of Pakistani sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the first strike, which came

late Wednesday, a suspected American drone fired two missiles at a militant hideout in the North Waziristan tribal area near the Afghan border, killing three militants.

Then, early Thursday a suspected U.S. missile strike targeted another militant compound in North Waziristan, killing at least 10 people, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Pakistan's northwest, particularly North Waziristan, is home to numerous militant groups — both local and al-Qaida-linked foreign groups — who often work together, sharing fighters, money or expertise.

There was no immediate infor-

mation on the identities of those killed in the strikes but the two intelligence officials who gave information about the strike said the area is dominated by the Haqqani network, and most of those killed are believed to have belonged to the organization.

"We have also been hearing some names coming from our field agents, but we don't have any confirmation so far," said one of the officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The Haqqani network is believed to carry out operations against U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan from bases in North

Waziristan and is considered one of the more lethal groups operating in Afghanistan.

Due to stricter rules on the use of drones, diplomatic sensitivities and the changing nature of the al-Qaida threat, the number of American drone strikes had dwindled. The ones Wednesday and Thursday were the first since Christmas, and even before that, the number of strikes every year had been steadily dropping.

The Pakistani government and military are believed to have supported the drone strikes to a degree in the past but in recent years have become more vocal in their opposition. The strikes are extremely controversial in Paki-

stan where many people consider them a violation of the country's sovereignty.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani court on Thursday struck down a government order barring former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, who faces treason charges, from leaving the country. The ex-president's court victory was tempered because the government can still appeal.

The ruling by the Karachi court could pave the way for the man who ruled Pakistan for nearly a decade to leave the country after an embarrassing trial that saw him become the first chief of army staff to face treason charges.

China and Japan in dispute on encounter

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China and Japan are blaming each other for a close encounter between military jets over the East China Sea.

China's Defense Ministry said Thursday that Japanese F-15 fighters followed a Chinese TU-154 plane on a regular patrol Wednesday morning and got as close as 100 feet.

It released two videos on its website purporting to show the incident, which it said had "seriously affected" the safety of the Chinese plane.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga denied on Thursday that Japanese aircraft had approached a Chinese plane and said Japan stood by the version it gave on Wednesday — that two Chinese SU27 fighters had posed a danger to Japanese aircraft by flying near them. "Chinese criticism is irrelevant," Suga said.

On Wednesday, Japan lodged a diplomatic protest with Beijing over the incident and on Thurs-



JAPAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE/AP

An undated photo released by Japan's Ministry of Defense shows a Chinese SU-27 fighter plane. China and Japan are blaming each other for a close encounter between military jets over the East China Sea.

day its Foreign Ministry summoned China's ambassador.

In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters, "China strongly opposes and protests Japan's act of ignoring the facts, shifting the blame onto the victim, aggressive slandering and hyping the so-called China threat."

Tensions between the two Asian rivals have worsened in recent years over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. Japan controls the islands but China

also claims them.

The two countries have increased patrols by ships and military planes to press their conflicting territorial claims.

They had a similar incident on May 24.

"The latest incident occurred despite our strong protest and request for preventive efforts following the previous incident, and the government of Japan takes it extremely seriously," Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Aikata Saiki told reporters after meeting with Ambassador Cheng Yonghua.

British court allows secrecy during trial

BY JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's appeals court ruled Thursday that a criminal trial of two terrorism suspects can be held largely in secret on national security grounds — a decision some say sets a dangerous precedent.

Three judges said the case was "exceptional," and that the core of the trial should be heard without the public present in court. Under the ruling, a small number of journalists will be allowed to attend most of the proceedings, but not to report it as it unfolds.

Prosecutors sought the secret trial on security grounds, saying they would have to abandon the case if it could not be held in private and without publicly naming the defendants. The judges expressed "grave concern" about doing both at the same time, and ordered that the names of the suspects be released.

While portions of trials have previously been held without press or public present, lawyers said the bid for an entire secret criminal trial was unprecedented in an English court.

That move was challenged

by media organizations, who claimed a partial victory in the case Thursday. The decision is final, and the trial is due to start Monday.

The defendants, previously named as AB and CD, were then identified as Erol Incedal and Mounir Rarmoul-Bouhadjar. Incedal is charged with preparing an act of terrorism, and Rarmoul-Bouhadjar with other terrorist offenses. Details of their alleged crimes have not been made public.

The judges agreed about the risk that "the administration of justice would be frustrated if the trial were to be held in open court."

Lord Justice Peter Gross, one of the judges, said that open justice was "a fundamental principle of our common law," but that a departure from open justice was justified in some circumstances.

He said exceptions to open justice must be "necessary and proportionate."

The judges said the "core" of part of the trial should be private but some sections would be held in public, including the jury swearing-in, the reading of the charges and the verdicts.



FLAG DAY 5K RUN

Camp Arifan's Zone 1 on June 14 at 6 a.m. Same day registration from 4:30-5:45 a.m. **Limited edition t-shirts available - while supplies last!** Participants must comply with ARCENT dress standards - head phones may not be worn. Volunteers are needed to help out - **Sign up at the Zone 1 Fitness Center.** For more info, call DSN 480-1302.

STARS AND STRIPES

Sponsorship does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Army.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 charged over heroin taken to 1st-grade class

PA PHILADELPHIA — Authorities say a man and a woman are facing charges after a first-grader brought 11 packets of heroin to a Philadelphia school.

School officials said 20 students at Barry Elementary School in the city's Cobbs Creek section were taken to a hospital after a teacher saw a 6-year-old girl playing with one of the packets.

No injuries were reported, although police said one of the packets appeared to have been bitten and a girl was complaining of stomach pains.

Police and prosecutors said Wednesday that Christopher Troy-Jenkins White, 28, and Marie Hunter, 32, were charged with endangerment and narcotics possession.

Blast at celebratory bonfire injures 7 teens

NV HENDERSON — A drum of fuel left too close to a bonfire exploded in the desert in southern Nevada this week, injuring seven young people who gathered to celebrate a high school graduation ceremony, fire officials and a witness said.

The explosion late Monday night outside Henderson occurred after Basic High's commencement, said Maddie Anderson, a graduate of the Henderson school who was among the injured.

A boy rolled a 55-gallon barrel of diesel fuel to the edge of the blaze near an abandoned building and the container blew up a short time later, she said.

The teens were out of cellphone range, she said, and had to drive themselves to University Medical Center in nearby Las Vegas. Of five people admitted, two were discharged, two were in critical condition and one was in serious condition, hospital spokeswoman Danita Cohen said Wednesday. Two girls remained in the hospital's burn center, Anderson said.

Woman charged in trash-throwing incident

WA SEATTLE — A 28-year-old woman whose sleep was interrupted by a cancer charity run outside her Seattle apartment has been charged with assault and reckless endangerment for pelting supporters with trash, used cat litter and frozen chicken.

Any Lee was jailed briefly and has not yet entered a plea.

Charging papers say she tossed a bag of trash out her fifth-floor window onto supporters cheering the June 1 Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported she threw a food tray that was loaded with kitty litter full of feces, a large piece of frozen chicken that hit a 13-year-old girl and a juice bottle that nearly hit a disabled man.

EEOC: Workers forced to pray, say 'I love you'

NY MINEOLA — A federal agency said a New York health care firm forced employees

THE CENSUS

9 The number of days a kayaker journeyed into the Pacific ocean in an attempt to reach Hawaii before he ran into trouble and had to turn around. A Coast Guard cutter crew on Tuesday rescued the 57-year-old man, who was not identified, about 60 miles southwest of Santa Barbara's Point Conception after he sent a distress call indicating equipment failure. A friend of the man said he had left Monterey, Calif., on May 30 attempting to make the 2,400-mile voyage in a kayak with a solar panel that charged all his electronic equipment. When the solar panel malfunctioned Saturday, the man turned back, but couldn't find his way.



CHRIS HUBER, RAPID CITY (S.D.) JOURNAL/AP

Leap into summer

Sarah Houghland, 15, and Hannah Wang, 16, jump off the rocks at a popular swimming spot on Battle Creek locally known as Hippie Hole near Mount Rushmore, S.D., on Tuesday.

to join prayer circles, thank God for having jobs and say "I love you" to co-workers and managers.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a discrimination lawsuit Wednesday against United Health Programs of America and its parent company, Cost Containment Group.

The EEOC said the Long Island company required employees to practice a belief system called "Onionhead" that includes praying, discussing personal matters with colleagues and reading spiritual texts.

The agency says employees who objected were disciplined or terminated. It's asking a judge to stop the practices and ensure employees receive back pay and other compensation.

Mom talked to daughter as teen fell off cliff

AK ANCHORAGE — A Washington state teenager was on the phone with her mother as she hiked alone on a mountain in Alaska, saying she was nervous about the slippery terrain before her mother heard a

scream, and then silence. The 18-year-old had fallen 30 feet from a cliff.

Shelly LaGrou, said Tuesday that she waited, roughly 1,500 miles away in Omak, Wash., to hear her daughter's voice again.

Cherelle LaGrou came back on the phone after a while, saying she had slipped down the slope and couldn't climb back up. She was hysterical and crying, telling her mother she wasn't ready to die.

Shelly LaGrou tried to keep her daughter calm Sunday while her husband frantically called the teen's employer, Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge, which alerted Alaska State Troopers. That call set in motion a dramatic 45-minute rescue near Denali National Park.

The teen sustained only minor scratches.

Iconic arch could soon ban rope swinging

UT SALT LAKE CITY — One of southern Utah's signature towering arches could soon be closed to daredevil rope-swinging.

Federal officials are considering a ban on the stunt that has frustrated visitors marveling at Corona Arch.

The sport involves taking a running leap and swinging like a pendulum through five-story sandstone structures. It was made so popular on YouTube that state authorities banned it from commercial outfitters last year.

Droopy pants contempt charge overturned

FL TALLAHASSEE — A Florida appeals court is overturning a contempt charge placed on an Alachua County teen who was struggling with falling pants.

The 1st District Court of Appeal ruled Monday that Circuit Judge Stanley Griffis had no reason for the contempt charge. The teenager, whose name was not released, spent two days in a juvenile detention center.

Griffis ordered him to pull up his pants, but the teen told him they would not go up. That resulted in the teen's mother forcibly bringing him to a podium.

The boy then said something which prompted the bailiff to ask if something was funny.

Griffis cited the juvenile for throwing a "t tantrum" and disputing the court. The appeals court said both the record and a video do not support the charge.

Owners of recovered stolen goods sought

MO JACKSON — Police in a southeast Missouri town are looking for the rightful owners of a trove of goods believed to have been stolen from homes and storage units.

KFVS-TV reported the items were discovered May 29 when police executed a search warrant at a home in Jackson.

Most of the items are power tools, including chain saws, air compressors and a leaf blower. The list released by police Tuesday also includes hand tools, computer equipment, a home theater system and a cash register that had been pried open.

From wire reports

FACES



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

Singer-songwriter Jake Bugg is taking the next step in his own personal British Invasion plan this week, playing at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn. He sees it as an opportunity to hook the ears of potential new fans.

Catching the Bugg

Raspy-voiced Brit hopes to find new fans at Bonnaroo

By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

Jake Bugg is taking the next step in his personal British Invasion plan this week, flying in to play at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival.

Bugg has been working the crowds in America since the release of his second album, the Rick Rubin-produced "Shangri La," late last year. He wrapped up a headlining tour of sizable theaters with a rousing sold-out show at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville this year, hit "Ellen" and "American Idol," did a flyby of the South by Southwest conference in Austin, Texas, last March on his way to the West Coast to play for Jimmy Fallon.

Bonnaroo starts a small run of festivals and theaters, and later this year, he'll open a run of dates for The Black Keys.

"I just love touring the States and seeing everything," said the 20-year-old roots rock-influenced singer with the raspy voice. "But you can't tour it if you have nobody to play to, and the thing with festivals

and the like is not everybody's there to see you, so it's an opportunity to make some new fans and build your fan base."

Bugg has been using his journeys to gather ideas for a third album, and the trip to Manchester, Tenn., for this weekend's festival won't be his only trip to the area. He plans to return later this year and visit Memphis, home to many of his influences, like Stax Records.

"You go into places like that, you don't know how it's going to sound really with the thing that you do," Bugg said. "You know, I might go in there and it might not be happening, or I might go in there and really love it and just get inspired and just want to spend some time there. It's just about enjoying myself sometimes. I just want to enjoy myself and get trace back some of my musical roots and my heroes and stuff like that, and just see what happens."

This musical tourism paid off for Bugg on "Shangri La" as he collaborated with new friends in new locations. He traveled to Robert Johnson's crossroads near Clarksdale, Miss., while recording at Memphis'

Sun Studios, and he came to Nashville to plug into the mainstream country music songwriting machine on Music Row.

"Some of them write two songs a day," Bugg said. "I went to see some of those songwriters and I felt like for them it was another day in the office. You get in there and you press play and, 'Try to sing something into this,' and I'm like, 'No, pal, that song has no relevance to me.' I'm not going to sing something I don't feel like I own because I won't be able to sing it live and express it how I want."

He fled the row and found safe harbor in The Raconteurs singer-guitarist Brendan Benson's studio. He added frequent collaborator Iain Archer to the mix.

The sessions produced album standout "Kingpin" and two other strong songs.

"Jake's kind of a rare bird," Benson said. "He's so young, but he's got this kind of old-man wisdom about him in his lyrics. He just sort of seems to be channeling sometimes an old spirit ... It's a pretty strange thing to witness coming out of such a young kid's mouth."

More Brits at Bonnaroo

Jake Bugg isn't the only British star headed for the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival this week. There's a mini-British Invasion of sorts going on through Sunday in Manchester, Tenn. — and we're not just talking about Elton John's headlining performance.

Here are five British acts we're particularly interested in seeing (and don't forget you can stream many of the performances if you're not one of the 80,000 down on the farm):

■ **The Arctic Monkeys:** Listen to any rock radio station for 30 minutes and you'll likely hear The Arctic Monkeys. The Sheffield, England, quartet began as buzzed-over darlings eight years ago and survived that experience to mature into a formidable, lasting act that's learned the art of keeping our attention.

■ **James Blake:** It will be interesting to see how London producer and singer-songwriter James Blake's minimalist sound will go over at Bonnaroo, where sound bleed gives the advantage to the raucous. Listen closely, though. Blake is one of electronic music's most interesting artists, and he earned a Grammy Award nomination for best new artist last year.

■ **Sam Smith:** Blake took a nod for best new artist last year, and you can bet neo-soul crooner Sam Smith from London will pick one up this year. The BBC's Song of 2014 winner is one of the hottest singers on vinyl this year and his star is only going to get bigger. Check him out while you can still catch him at one of Bonnaroo's more intimate stages.

■ **Disclosure:** Guy and Howard Lawrence of Grammy Award-nominated Disclosure and Smith broke through together when the Surrey sibling duo featured Smith on their breakthrough "Latch" a few years ago. Like Smith, the Lawrences have drawn attention since then and are seen as one of electronic music's most promising acts.

■ **Chvrches:** This synthpop trio from Glasgow, Scotland, makes candy confections built around singer Lauren Mayberry's wispy vocals that feel both new and comfortably familiar — if you're old enough to remember the first wave of British synthpop bands all those decades ago. Mayberry has the same star-making appeal of Smith. Here's your chance to get on board early.

— Chris Talbott/AP

Dolly Parton, Vince Gill to re-create seminal recording sessions

The Associated Press

Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Emmylou Harris, Marty Stuart, Steve Martin and more will recreate seminal recordings in country music history that helped produce pioneers such as Jimmie Rodgers and The Carter Family.

The 1927 Bristol Sessions was a project by the Victor Talking Machine Co. to record Appalachian music and attracted musicians from all over the Southeast to the city on the Tennessee-Virginia border.

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Bristol, which

is celebrating a grand opening on Aug. 2, selected Grammy-winning producer Carl Jackson to record "Orthopedic Joy: The 1927 Bristol Sessions Revisited," to be released in October.

In the spirit of the original recordings, the Birthplace of Country Music is launching a nationwide search for a new artist to record the album's final song.

Tony Awards cut 2 sound design trophies

The Tony Awards will have fewer trophies next year and Broadway's sound designers are

the ones being dropped.

The Tony Awards Administration Committee met Wednesday to determine the eligibility rules for the 2014-2015 season, and cut the categories of Best Sound Design of a Play and Best Sound Design of a Musical. That drops to 25 the number of competitive Tonys next year.

Other news

■ **Morrissey** has canceled the rest of his U.S. tour to recover from a respiratory infection that has worsened. His representative said in a statement Tuesday the

55-year-old singer wants to make a full recovery and has to withdraw from the shows.

■ A truck driver pleaded not guilty Wednesday in the fatal New Jersey Turnpike crash that also injured comedian Tracy Morgan as investigators look into what role his long commute to work played in the accident.

■ **Casey Kasem's** daughter has the authority to withhold food and fluids from her ailing father, a judge ruled Wednesday. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Daniel S. Murphy reversed a ruling from Monday that stated that Kasem should receive food, fluids

and certain medications.

■ A coroner's office says a post-mortem examination has failed to determine what killed comedian **Rik Mayall**, a pioneer of British alternative comedy. He died suddenly on Monday at age 56.

■ **Ruby Dee**, an acclaimed actor and civil rights activist whose versatile career spanned stage, radio television and film, died on Wednesday night at age 91, according to her daughter.

■ **Martha Hyer**, an Oscar-nominated actress who starred alongside the likes of Frank Sinatra and Humphrey Bogart, has died. She was 89.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Lawyers: GM seeks bankruptcy shield

By TOM KRISHER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Lawyers for a Georgia family that is trying to reopen a wrongful death lawsuit against General Motors say the company is trying to move the case to federal court so it can use bankruptcy as a shield from the claim.

The lawyers, Lance Cooper and Jere Beasley, said Wednesday in a statement that GM's court filings run counter to a promise

made by GM CEO Mary Barra to fairly compensate families of people killed or those injured in crashes caused by defective ignition switches.

GM spokesman Greg Martin called the company's filings procedural.

A federal bankruptcy judge in New York ruled in 2009 that the new GM is shielded from claims stemming from cars made before the company emerged from bankruptcy protection. Instead,

the claims go against the old GM, which has limited assets. The judge now is being asked to decide if he will allow claims against the new company.

Cooper and Beasley say moving the case to federal court would allow the company to use the bankruptcy to send claims to the old GM.

Ken and Beth Melton sued GM three years ago in Cobb County, Ga., in the 2010 death of their daughter, Brooke Melton, 29. The

pediatric nurse died when her 2005 Chevrolet Cobalt skidded, hit a car and ended up in a creek.

The lawsuit alleged that Brooke Melton was killed after the Cobalt lost power due to a faulty ignition switch, causing her to lose control of the car. The Meltons settled the case last September, but Cooper and Beasley filed a lawsuit in May seeking to set aside the settlement and to reopen the case, alleging that GM fraudulently concealed evidence.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	\$1,3883
Euro costs (June 13)	€0.7203
Dollar buys (June 13)	\$1.713
Japanese yen (June 13)	¥100.00
South Korean won (June 13)	₩992.00

Commercial rates	0.3770
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.6831/0.5942
British pound	£1.0858
Canada (dollar)	C\$1.2180
China (Yuan)	¥6.2820
Denmark (Krone)	DKK5.9680
Egypt (Pound)	EGP1.7516
Euro	\$1.3542/0.7385
Hong Kong (Dollar)	HK\$1.2257
Hungary (Forint)	HUF235.72
Israel (Shekel)	ILS4.6589
Japan (Yen)	¥101.34
Kuwait (Dinar)	KWD0.2822
Norway (Krone)	NOK5.9921
Philippines (Peso)	₱43.80
Poland (Zloty)	PLN3.0
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	SAR3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	S\$1.2478
South Korea (Won)	₩1,017.15
Switzerland (Franc)	CHF0.8990
Thailand (Bath)	฿32.44
Turkey (New Lira)	TL1.009

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one euro, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.911	\$4.081	\$4.245	\$4.129
Change in price	-1.6 cents	-1.8 cents	-1.6 cents	-2.6 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.884	\$5.179	\$4.974
Change in price	---	-1.3 cents	-1.4 cents	-5.5 cents
U.K.	---	\$4.046	\$4.210	\$4.094
Change in price	---	-1.8 cents	-1.6 cents	-2.6 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.201	---
Change in price	---	---	-1.6 cents	---
U.K.	---	\$4.084	\$4.219	\$4.215
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$4.647	\$4.969*
Change in price	---	---	-2.5 cents	-3.7 cents
Italy	---	\$4.505	---	---
Change in price	---	no change	---	---

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.039	---	\$3.889
Change in price	---	-2.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	---	\$3.669	---	\$3.889
Change in price	---	-1.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents
South Korea	---	\$3.929	---	\$4.149
Change in price	---	-2.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents
Guam	---	\$3.919**	\$4.089	\$4.259
Change in price	---	-2.0 cents	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents

* Diesel EFD ** Mildgrade
For the week of June 14-20

MARKET WATCH

June 11, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	-102.04
	16,843.88
Nasdaq composite	-6.07
	4,331.93
Standard & Poor's 500	-6.90
	1,943.89
Russell 2000	-6.01
	1,166.71

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	8.00
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.47

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Friday's US temperatures

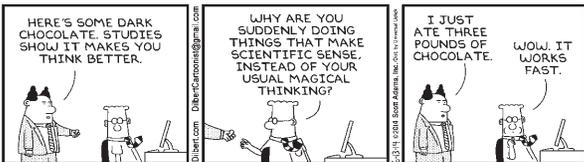
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	85	65	Rain	Fort Wayne	74	59	Cir	Louisville	78	68	Cir	Pocatello	74	51	Cir	Slous City	77	48	Cir
Ablene, Tex	88	67	Cldy	Cheyenne	84	48	Pcldy	Fresno	92	61	Cir	Lubbock	87	61	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	64	56	Rain	Sioux Falls	74	46	Cir
Akron, Ohio	73	62	Cldy	Cleveland	74	56	Cir	Goodland	87	56	Cir	Macon	89	67	Cir	Portland, Ore.	66	55	Rain	South Bend	71	54	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	59	56	Pcldy	Cincinnati	77	64	Cldy	Grand Junction	77	64	Cir	Madison	87	50	Cir	Providence	74	63	Rain	Spokane	63	50	Rain
Albuquerque	89	63	Cldy	Cheyenne	72	64	Pcldy	Great Falls	68	48	Cldy	Medford	74	49	Pcldy	Pueblo	91	54	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	78	55	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	80	65	Rain	Colorado Springs	86	51	Pcldy	Green Bay	88	66	Cldy	Memphis	83	67	Rain	Reno/Reno-Burham	88	69	Rain	Springfield, Mo.	78	57	Pcldy
Amarillo	85	56	Pcldy	Denver	89	67	Cldy	Green Bay	88	66	Cldy	Miami Beach	88	75	Pcldy	Rapid City	87	49	Cir	Syracuse	82	65	Rain
Anchorage	57	47	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	87	69	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	86	66	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	91	70	Pcldy	St. Louis	79	62	Rain	Tallahassee	90	70	Cldy
Asheville	80	58	Cldy	Columbia, Ohio	75	65	Cldy	Hartford	82	64	Rain	Milwaukee	90	52	Cir	Richmond	87	69	Rain	Tampa	90	75	Pcldy
Atlanta	88	68	Rain	Concord, N.H.	71	58	Rain	Hartford	82	64	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	74	51	Cir	Rochester	77	65	Rain	Tucson	103	75	Pcldy
Atlantic City	83	68	Rain	Corpus Christi	96	78	Cldy	Helena	70	50	Cldy	Missoula	65	47	Cir	Rockford	74	53	Cir	Wichita Falls	89	63	Pcldy
Austin	90	64	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	88	71	Cldy	Honolulu	86	75	Pcldy	Mobile	72	72	Cir	San Antonio	84	75	Rain	Wichita Falls	89	63	Pcldy
Baltimore	84	67	Cldy	Dayton	74	62	Pcldy	Houston	77	77	Cldy	Montgomery	88	69	Rain	Sacramento	84	54	Cir	Yuba City	81	66	Cir
Baton Rouge	89	74	Rain	Daytona Beach	90	71	Rain	Huntsville	85	67	Rain	Nashville	79	68	Cir	St. Louis	79	62	Rain	Tulsa	81	66	Cir
Biloxi	80	54	Pcldy	Denver	87	54	Pcldy	Indianapolis	76	61	Pcldy	New Orleans	86	77	Rain	St. Petersburg	88	77	Pcldy	Waco	88	77	Pcldy
Birmingham	85	68	Rain	Des Moines	75	54	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	87	69	Rain	New York City	81	63	Rain	St. Thomas	89	78	Rain	Washington	84	69	Rain
Bismarck	75	47	Cir	Detroit	74	62	Pcldy	Jacksonville	80	70	Cldy	Newark	82	64	Rain	Salem, Ore.	89	82	Rain	W. Palm Beach	88	74	Cir
Boise	70	49	Cir	Duluth	71	44	Cir	Juneau	62	46	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	87	71	Cir	Salt Lake City	84	63	Cir	Wichita	81	57	Cir
Boston	71	62	Rain	El Paso	99	77	Pcldy	Kansas City	75	53	Cir	North Platte	83	52	Cir	San Diego	92	69	Cir	Wichita Falls	89	63	Pcldy
Bridgport	80	62	Rain	Elkins	76	60	Cldy	Key West	88	78	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	83	60	Pcldy	San Francisco	84	75	Rain	Wilkes-Barre	79	65	Rain
Brownsville	93	79	Pcldy	Erie	69	65	Cldy	Knoxville	84	64	Rain	Omaha	78	50	Cir	San Jose	72	64	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	82	68	Rain
Buffalo	73	65	Rain	Eugene	67	51	Cldy	Lake Charles	87	76	Cldy	Orlando	92	72	Rain	San Francisco	71	54	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	82	68	Rain
Burlington, Vt.	75	64	Rain	Evansville	78	66	Pcldy	Lansing	70	55	Cir	Pendleton	71	51	Cir	San Jose	78	53	Cir	Youngstown	74	63	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	61	51	Rain	Fairbanks	70	46	Cldy	Las Vegas	100	77	Cir	Pendleton	71	51	Cir	Santa Fe	84	53	Cir	Yuba City	81	66	Cir
Casper, Wyo.	84	48	Cir	Fargo	73	23	Pcldy	Lexington	76	65	Cldy	Peoria	78	64	Cir	St. Ste Marie	59	47	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	89	72	Cldy	Flagstaff	78	44	Cir	Lincoln	79	50	Cir	Philadelphia	83	68	Rain	Savannah	90	71	Pcldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	80	63	Cldy	Flint	71	57	Pcldy	Little Rock	84	66	Cldy	Phoenix	107	81	Cir	Seattle	62	54	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	86	66	Cldy	Fort Smith	83	65	Pcldy	Los Angeles	75	62	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	76	64	Rain	Shreveport	88	72	Cir				

National temperature extremes:
Hi: Wed., 115, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 25, Stanley, Idaho

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



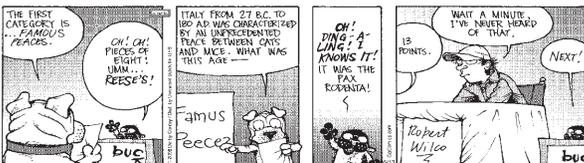
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12					13			14				
15					16			17				
	18				19			20				
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29			30			31			32	33	34	
			35			36			37			
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45			46				
47					48			49			50	51
52					53			54				
55					56			57				

ACROSS

- 1 Instrumental alternative
- 6 Handle roughly
- 9 Be in arrears
- 12 Worship
- 13 Foreman foe
- 14 Chap
- 15 Zellweger or Fleming
- 16 Change
- 18 Early Stephen King novel
- 20 Antiquing apparatus
- 21 Honest politician
- 23 Thither
- 24 World-weary
- 25 Pinches
- 27 Bump in a ski run
- 29 Senility
- 31 Belamy's brother in "Trading Places"
- 35 Rage
- 37 Thy
- 38 Virile
- 41 A cont.
- 43 Pos. opp.
- 44 Reed instrument
- 45 Director's call
- 47 Agree
- 49 Lance
- 52 Shack
- 53 Ring decision
- 54 Jollies
- 55 Noshed

DOWN

- 1 Crossword clue abbr.
- 2 Praise in verse
- 3 Idea
- 4 Neighborhood
- 5 Suspicious
- 6 "Serpico" star
- 7 Lotion additive
- 8 Victory
- 9 Alpha counterpart
- 10 Merchandise
- 11 Strictly — noun
- 17 Region between hills
- 19 Shakespear hero
- 21 Moreover
- 22 Life story, for short
- 24 Vagrant
- 26 Beauty pageant attire
- 28 Range
- 30 Sporty Pontiac
- 32 Link
- 33 Shade
- 34 Work unit
- 36 Parish leader
- 38 Chocolate coffee
- 39 Approximately
- 40 Short adventure tale
- 42 Puts on the line
- 45 "Puppy Love" singer
- 46 Mayberry moppet
- 48 List-endng abbr.
- 50 Wanted-poster abbr.
- 51 Q-U center

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	W	A	Y		R	A	J		B	R	A	M
L	I	M	O		E	R	A		R	E	B	A
A	P	E	R		S	A	M		U	S	E	R
S	E	X	I	S	T		B	O	T	T	L	E
			C	I	A		B	A	Y			
M	A	R	K		G	O	R	I	L	L	A	S
A	V	E			E	W	E				E	L
C	A	S	C	A	D	E	S		I	S	L	E
			T	H	Y		T	W	O			
S	P	O	R	E	S		R	E	D	A	C	T
H	E	R	O		I	D	A		I	G	O	R
I	T	E	M		L	E	I		D	E	L	I
M	A	D	E		O	W	N		E	D	A	M

6-13

CRYPTOQUIP

B X N F Y V C Q F V A M W D V L W V
D A C Y Z G Q A V L F Q W Y X M B M V F Q
V Q F F M O Q A G W G J D L W N F
W M W O J B Y Z Q B N W J Q D

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HEAR SEVERAL OLD-SCHOOL RUSSIAN LEADERS GOT TOGETHER AGAIN. I'D CALL IT THE SOVIET RE-UNION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

For Republicans, re-evaluation time

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

The morning after, at breakfast at the Republicans' Capitol Hill Club, Virginia Rep. Robert Goodlatte was, as befits one of Washington's grown-ups, measured in his reaction to what 36, 120 Virginia voters did the day before. It would, he says, be wise "to take a step back and a deep breath until we find out how everyone"—meaning, especially, House Republicans—"reacts to this." By "this" he indicates, with a wave of a hand, the one-word headline on Roll Call, a newspaper that covers Congress: "Stunner."

Roll Call's online article added these four words: "Can't Expect Changes Ever, though." Of course, nothing changes everything, but the resounding and unprecedented defeat in a Republican primary of the soon-to-be former House majority leader will send ripples radiating through the House and into the Republicans' 2016 presidential nomination contest.

It is often folly to try to tickle national portents from local events. But there are fewer purely local political events now that elections have become increasingly nationalized in this era of inter-party and intra-party ideological combat. So, consider how the unhorsing of Cantor may strike other House Republicans.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who embraces a more welcoming immigration policy than does much of the Republican nominating electorate, may construe Cantor's defeat as a discouraging omen concerning any presidential aspirations Bush might have. Cantor was damaged by the accusation that he favors "amnesty" for the more than 11 million illegal immigrants. Actually, he may have done more damage to himself by seeming to take multiple and

contradictory positions on immigration.

Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan may be weighing a probable ascent in the House leadership against the uncertainties of seeking the Republican presidential nomination. The removal of Cantor, a formidable rival for the office of speaker once John Boehner relinquishes it, may give Ryan reason to remain in Congress. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who hardly has an insufficiency of audacity, will be further emboldened in his presidential ambitions because tea party support helped to propel David Brat, a 49-year-old college professor, to victory over Cantor. Never mind that Brat, who speaks equably about making Washington work, seems to eschew Cruz's confrontational style.

Although the "amnesty" accusation hurt Cantor, so did his membership in Congress' leadership, and the perception that he had neglected his district. Also, he foolishly used his campaign millions to baroque Brat with absurd ads implying that because Brat is a professor, he must be a liberal.

Campaign reformers who believe money is the sovereign determinative in elections should consider the contrary evidence of Brat's \$231,000 war chest. Big ideas can have bigger consequences than cash does, and Brat resonated with tea party types primarily because his campaign vocabulary was that of constitutionally limited government—10th Amendment conservatism.

Goodlatte, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, which processes immigration legislation, may have set a 2014 record for understatement when he said Cantor's defeat will not improve the chances of immigration reform this year. But the chances were, he says, slim anyway.

Congress will be away most of August and expects to adjourn for campaigning in

early October, at the latest. Barack Obama, Goodlatte says, continues to poison the well by threatening to use his "pen and phone"—unilateral actions—to alter immigration policy without involving Congress.

Goodlatte believes that piecemeal reform, addressing border security, high-qualifying immigrants and other matters separately—would be possible if many people, including Obama, were not holding all progress hostage to the chimera of "comprehensive" reform. Goodlatte has come to the conclusion that many people, including Obama, do not want reform but "only want the issue" of immigration for its political advantages. Goodlatte, however, will continue the Sisyphean task of pushing the immigration boulder up Capitol Hill. The subject is, for him, personal. Immigration cases were about half his practice as a lawyer before he came to Congress in 1993, and he strongly sympathizes with his former clients—people who conscientiously tried to become legal immigrants while others, ignoring legality, "would go right around them."

He does not think "anybody" among House Republicans believes we are going to deport 11 million people. And he thinks a large majority of illegal immigrants would be largely satisfied with legislation providing a pathway to a legal status short of citizenship. If, however, Cantor's defeat reinforces the perception that Republicans are simply hostile regarding immigration and immigrants, ripples from it might swamp attempts to align Republican policy with the 51 percent of Republican nation-wide, who like 62 percent of Americans, favor for the 11 million a pathway to citizenship.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Democrats should nab GOP reformers' ideas

By CLIVE CROOK

Bloomberg News

The Republican Party's reformist movement—if it's big enough to be called a movement—recently published a set of policy proposals: "Room to Grow: Conservative Reforms for a Limited Government and a Thriving Middle Class." Most of the ideas in this pamphlet are good. In fact, Democrats should appropriate them.

The Republican reformers rightly emphasize job creation. Make the long-term unemployed more hireable, they say, by subsidizing their wages for a while after they return to work. Give them more information about work in other states, as well as grants or cheap loans to cover moving costs. Get rid of stupid licensing requirements. (Hairdressers need nine months of full-time training and a license?) In states that don't have them, start work-sharing programs so that employers can cope with temporary falls in demand by cutting hours rather than workers.

The reformers' ideas on relieving poverty are good, too—and equally appealing, or so you'd imagine, to open-minded Democrats. Build on the popular and successful welfare reforms of the 1990s (enacted by a Republican Congress and a Democratic president) by extending work requirements beyond Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to other parts of the safety net, such as federal housing assistance. Identify Social Security Disability Insurance to people who are actually disabled. Make

the safety net more effective by consolidating its bewildering tangle of different programs into fewer schemes or even a single "universal credit."

There's more in the same vein. Help poor families by clearing penalties for being married out of the tax and benefit systems. Increase the child credit for low-income families, especially in the year a child is born, to cover lost wages. Simplify and strengthen financial regulation by raising capital requirements for big banks. Remove regulatory barriers to innovation in education. Give students and parents more and better information about schools and colleges, and the power to act on it. Give colleges a stake in their students' success by making them repay part of defaulted loans. And so on.

It would be splendid if the Republican Party in Congress simply adopted the reformers' agenda. Conceivably, this could happen, even if it isn't very likely. Bits and pieces of the manifesto have the backing of a leading Republican politician or two. Nonetheless, the Republican Party does have a problem with "Room to Grow."

Intellectually, smarter and smaller government fit together pretty well, but for propaganda purposes, you can't prioritize both. Forced to choose, most Republicans in Congress would rather just stick it to Washington and, in Grover Norquist's memorable phrasing, get government "down to the size where we can drown it in a bathtub."

Ideally, one would hope for an alliance of centrist Democrats and pragmatic Re-

publicans to take forward what's best in reform conservatism. You only need to think about health care reform to see how unlikely that is. Obamacare began as a conservative proposal. Once a Democratic administration took it up, conservatives realized they didn't just oppose it but also despised it. Suggesting improvements, as opposed to scrapping it altogether, became a treasonous act. If Democrats were to get behind the idea of a universal safety-net credit, say, you could expect congressional Republicans to oppose it implacably.

Tactically speaking, that ought to commend it to Democrats all the more. The notion, popular on the left, that Republicans literally want to make the poor and unemployed worse off—that the party is "monomanically focused on redistributing income upward"—is a feeble excuse for failing to engage with the reformers' ideas. Better to steal the good ones, which is always worth doing, and divide and confuse your opponents at the same time.

You can also make the charge that the Republicans are bereft of ideas—opposed, in fact, to the idea of having ideas—all the more plausible. And would it kill the Democrats to bring a few of conservatism's smart reformers over to their side?

Bigger government isn't much of a slogan. For Democrats, smarter government is much better—tried and tested, too. They should be praising and plundering reform conservatism, not sneering at it.

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg View columnist and a member of the Bloomberg View editorial board.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Taking issue with loan politics Boston Herald

The war on "millionaires and billionaires" is back! And at a most politically convenient time for President Barack Obama, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren and their party.

Yes, the president this week has pivoted away from irksome foreign policy issues and onto friendly domestic territory, with an issue Democrats see as a winner in the midterm elections — the high cost of student loan debt.

The president this week announced plans to expand the number of student borrowers who are allowed to cap their loan repayments at 10 percent of their income (a unilateral move for which the administration could provide no cost estimate) along with other underwhelming steps to ease the burden of student debt.

More significant, the president has endorsed passage of a bill — filed by Warren — that would allow student borrowers to refinance both their government and private student loans at lower rates.

And because there is no issue that this White House can't reduce to a stark choice between good and evil — the evil so often being those who dare to earn a hefty paycheck — well, Obama said members of Congress now cost "millions" for "Lower tax bills for millionaires," he said, "or lower student loan bills for the middle class."

Warren's refinancing bill is estimated to cost \$58 billion over 10 years, a cost that would be covered by closing those "loopholes" that allow the wealthy to pay rates that may be the same or lower than individuals who earn much less.

And while it's true that student loan debt is burdening the U.S. economy, this plan does nothing to help student borrowers find the jobs they would need to repay the money they borrowed (with knowledge of what they would cost to repay).

And even more to that point, making borrowing that much cheaper will do nothing whatsoever to bring down the high cost of a college education, which is the true driver of student loan debt.

This is nothing more than politics as official policy — the president's shout-out to Sen. John Thayer, a vulnerable Democrat, at yesterday's White House ceremony was just one of the clues — and it's a misguided policy at that.

Embrace new carbon rules The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

The Obama administration's new effort to reduce carbon emissions is an important, sensible and necessary step in reducing threat of global warming. It should serve as an example to other polluting nations around the world.

The new policy announced by the Environmental Protection Agency this month would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. Ultimately, the reduction in carbon emissions would be the equivalent of taking two-thirds of the nation's cars from the roads.

Coal-burning power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the nation. They account for about one-third of all U.S. greenhouse emissions.

But the proposed EPA policy would not cap those emissions overnight. Instead, the policy has built-in flexibility to allow states to devise their own plans for phasing in re-



DEU NALIO CHERY/AP

A young girl overcome by tear gas is helped by her classmate during an anti-government protest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Tuesday. A few thousand protesters demonstrated in the streets to demand the resignation of President Michel Martelly.

ductions over the next 15 years.

States will be permitted to meet the new standards in a variety of ways. They can require power plants to improve their capacity to capture carbon emissions. They can promote renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. And they can set up in-state, cap-and-trade agreements in which low-emission plants can sell credits to pollute to higher-emission plants.

Critics of the plan — including many who still refuse to accept that climate change even exists — have been quick to condemn it. They have labeled it a job-killer and a "war on coal."

But the economic harm is likely to be far less than they claim. Power companies already have factored in the cost of phasing out obsolete coal plants and developing cleaner energy sources, including the use of plentiful natural gas to run new plants.

Plus, it's hard to put a price on better health for millions of Americans.

The EPA's plan is a crucial first step in moving from a fossil-fuel-based economy to one more reliant on clean, renewable energy. It's not only something the American people should accept; it's what they should demand.

Bergdahl was worth rescuing The Miami Herald

The emerging picture of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was exchanged for five prisoners held at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, indicates he's no hero, no all-American G.I. Joe, and might even be a deserter. But what no one disputes is that he was an American soldier held by the enemy, and that alone justifies the U.S. effort to bring him home.

That is what the armed forces do. It's part of an unwritten but fundamental code of solidarity in the uniformed services. No one is left behind, and no one should seek, or offer, apologies for bringing soldiers home.

The circumstances of this particular case make the prisoner exchange contentious. The initial sense of relief and joy over his return quickly vanished when it was disclosed that Pfc. Bergdahl — he was promoted to sergeant during his five-year absence, a walk military protocol — apparently walked away from his post in Afghanistan voluntarily.

That is a serious violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, if it turns out to be true.

Before rushing to judgment, however, the murky details of the Bergdahl incident must be investigated.

Already, several early claims, such as the allegation that he went in search of the Taliban forces that turned into his captors, have been debunked or questioned.

In failing to inform Congress about their release beforehand, the Obama administration ignored the law, an action the president's advisers have sought to justify by claiming that the Taliban had threatened to kill Bergdahl if it became public.

This, too, should be part of any post-exchange investigation, providing it doesn't turn into a political circus. Republicans in Congress have been so eager to turn any perceived weakness or misstep by the administration into a scandal that it's hard to take them seriously when they once again cry wolf.

Whatever an investigation turns up, it does not alter the basic facts of Bergdahl's detention, nor the fact that bringing a captured soldier back to his family was the correct decision.

Could President Barack Obama have handled it better, perhaps without the big Rose Garden announcement? Yes.

Did he make the right call? Absolutely.

Brazil paid for hosting Cup Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

When the first World Cup 2014 match kicks off Thursday in Sao Paulo, Brazil, an estimated 1 billion people around the world will be watching. Billions more are expected to tune in for rest of the matches in new or refurbished stadiums in Rio de Janeiro and other cities around the country on which the government spent more than the equivalent of U.S. \$11 billion.

That's an astonishing amount of money, even for a growing economic power like Brazil. And for many in this South American country with a long love affair with *football*, not to mention more than his share of World Cup victories, it's just too much.

The ballooning cost of the infrastructure that will be hardly used by Brazilians has become the ignition point for a seething discontent throughout the country over corruption and lack of spending on public services. The protests began about a year ago and in the last few days have been reaching a new pitch with anti-government demonstrations, strikes and poverty activists taking their message to social media.

Brazilian officials reasoned that the stadiums can be used for the 2016 Olympic Games planned for this country, despite the data from the site of the last World Cup in South Africa that say all the hoped-for economic benefits did not materialize. They can also point to the jobs the project

brings in, plus the economic boost from an influx of millions of tourists from around the world paying for hotel, transportation, food, fun and souvenirs.

The economy is improving in Brazil, at least, according to World Bank data, and poverty rates have dropped significantly in recent years, from 24 percent in 2007 to 17 percent in 2012.

But all that to the vast majority who feel the economic boom is leaving them behind and only widening the gap between rich and poor, according to a Pew Global survey released last week.

It's a message that is resonating across the globe.

It's worth noting that no one is bashing soccer itself. This is Brazil, after all, home of the greatest player ever, Pele. The animosity is for the power structure, and offers an opportunity for fans around the world to chew over this bigger question while watching their team try to score: Who really wins when big sporting events come to town?

Help Haiti so aid not held up Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The troubled half-island of Haiti has a new problem to complicate its national life, this time over scheduling elections in the face of wrangling politicians.

Haiti, population 11 million, seems almost always to be in some kind of trouble. It also has been able, with some success, to attract international aid to help it climb out of the holes it seems to find itself in. The most recent catastrophe was the 2010 earthquake, which killed an estimated 316,000, and left its capital, Port-au-Prince, with many of its buildings ruined, and an estimated 1.5 million Haitians without housing.

That international response to the disaster included many promises of relief. Some \$9 billion was pledged. Some has been delivered; some has not. Recovery and reconstruction based on the relief has — as is normal for Haiti — presented a mixed picture. Some work has been accomplished. There has been a glitch called a cholera epidemic. Some of the Haitians claim that United Nations forces were responsible for introducing the disease to Haiti. That issue is still under dispute.

The current problem, holding up recovery and eventual economic development is of different sort. The current president, Michel Martelly, elected in 2011, is far overdue in setting parliamentary elections. Haiti's constitution forbids him a second consecutive term and the country's parliament is not ready to play ball with him on amending the constitution. That's one problem.

Another snarl is that two former presidents, both of whom showed themselves to be scoundrels in office, Jean-Claude Duvalier, "Baby Doc," and Jean-Bernard Aristide, a former Roman Catholic priest, were allowed to return to Haiti in recent years.

Both would also just love to be back in office, but they are not in a position of opportunity to steal, and are agitating to prevent the electoral process to function until they are properly positioned to re-install themselves in the provisional presidential palace. (The actual one remains in ruins.)

In the meantime, international aid donors are being asked to sit tight in terms of aid for reconstruction and development, arguing, probably correctly, that the political situation in the country is too unsettled for them to be able to provide aid with any assurance that it will be used honestly and well. It's hard to see what exactly any outside party can do about the current situation, but it is clear that the degree that the United States, the largest single aid donor, can influence events there, the first thing that should be done is push Martelly and the Haitian Legislature hard to set elections according to a firm schedule.

The people of Haiti deserve help and the politicians shouldn't be allowed to block it.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Pro basketball

NBA Finals

(Best-of-7, x=if necessary)
Game 1: San Antonio 2, Miami 1
Game 2: San Antonio 90, Miami 95
Game 3: San Antonio 111, Miami 92
Thursday: at Miami
Sunday: at San Antonio
x-Tuesday: at Miami
x-Friday, June 20: at San Antonio

NWBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	4	5	45.5%
Indiana	4	5	45.5%
Washington	3	5	44.1%
Connecticut	2	5	33.3%
New York	2	5	33.3%

WESTERN CONFERENCE			
W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	6	2	75.0%
Phoenix	3	5	44.4%
San Antonio	3	4	42.9%
Seattle	4	7	36.4%
Tulsa	2	8	28.6%

Tuesday's games

7:00 Tulsa 72, New York 57
 7:00 Phoenix 81, Washington 66
 7:00 Seattle 80, Chicago 76
Wednesday's games

Indiana 76, Seattle 68
 Phoenix at Connecticut
 Chicago at Washington
 Minnesota at Atlanta
 Connecticut at New York
 Seattle at San Antonio
 Los Angeles at Tulsa

College baseball

World Series

AT TD Ameritrade Omaha
Omaha, Neb.
Double Elimination
Game 1: UC Irvine (23) vs. Texas (43-19)
Game 2: Louisville (50-15) vs. Vanderbilt (46-19)
Sunday, June 15
Game 3: Texas Tech (45-19) vs. TCU (47-16)
Monday, June 16
Game 4: Virginia (49-14) vs. Mississippi (46-19)
Tuesday, June 17
Game 5: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 loser
Game 6: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner
Tuesday, June 17
Game 7: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser
Game 8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner
Wednesday, June 18
Game 9: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 loser
Thursday, June 19
Game 10: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 loser
Game 11: Friday, June 20
Game 12: Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner
Game 13: Saturday, June 21
x-Game 13: Game 6 winner vs. Game 9 winner
x-Game 14: Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner

Championship Series

(Best-of-three)
Monday, June 23: Texas TBA
Tuesday, June 24: Pairings TBA
x-Wednesday, June 25: Pairings TBA

AP spotlight

1913 — James Rowe, who had won most back-bowled Belmont State stakes races in a jockey seat, set the record for the number of Belmont Stakes wins by a trainer, either, when he sends Prince Astro to victory.
1935 — Jim Braddock scores a 15-round unanimous decision over Max Baer in New York to win the world heavyweight title.
1948 — Ben Hogan wins the U.S. Open for the fourth time, with a six-stroke victory over Sam Snead.
1997 — Chicago wins its fifth NBA championship in the last seven years. Steve Kerr's last-second shot gives the Bulls a 90-86 Game 6 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Soccer

World Cup FIRST ROUND

GROUP A	T	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0

Thursday, June 12

At Sao Paulo
 Brazil vs. Croatia

Friday, June 13

At Natal, Brazil
 Mexico vs. Cameroon

Tuesday, June 17

At Fortaleza, Brazil
 Brazil vs. Mexico

Wednesday, June 18

At Manaus, Brazil
 Croatia vs. Cameroon

Monday, June 23

At Brasilia, Brazil
 Brazil vs. Cameroon

At Recife, Brazil

Croatia vs. Mexico

GROUP B

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0

Friday, June 13

At Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Spain vs. Netherlands

At Curitiba, Brazil

Chile vs. Netherlands

Wednesday, June 18

At Rio de Janeiro
 Spain vs. Chile

GROUP C

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Netherlands vs. Australia	0	0	0	0	0
Spain vs. Australia	0	0	0	0	0
Colombia vs. Chile	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast vs. Colombia	0	0	0	0	0

Monday, June 23

At Toronto, FC
 Spain vs. Australia

At Sao Paulo, Brazil

Netherlands vs. Chile

GROUP D

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0
Greece vs. Japan	0	0	0	0	0
Colombia vs. Japan	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday, June 24

At Curitiba, Brazil
 Colombia vs. Japan

At Fortaleza, Brazil

Greece vs. Ivory Coast

GROUP D

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine vs. Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, June 21

At Manaus, Brazil
 England vs. Italy

Thursday, June 19

At Sao Paulo
 Uruguay vs. England

Friday, June 20

At Natal, Brazil
 Costa Rica vs. Italy

Tuesday, June 24

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Costa Rica vs. England, Non-Group

GROUP E

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland vs. Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland vs. Honduras	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 15

At Brasilia, Brazil
 France vs. Ecuador

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

France vs. Honduras

Friday, June 20

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Switzerland vs. France

At Curitiba, Brazil

Ecuador vs. Honduras

Wednesday, June 25

At Curitiba, Brazil
 Switzerland vs. Honduras

At Rio de Janeiro

Ecuador vs. France

GROUP F

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia-Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0
Iran vs. Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 15

At Rio de Janeiro
 Argentina vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina

Monday, June 16

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Iran vs. Nigeria

Saturday, June 21

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran

At Brasilia, Brazil

Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Nigeria

Wednesday, June 25

At Porto Alegre, Brazil
 Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran

GROUP G

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0	0

Monday, June 16

At Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Germany vs. Portugal

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

United States vs. Portugal

Thursday, June 19

At Curitiba, Brazil
 Russia vs. South Korea

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Belgium vs. Russia

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

Algeria vs. South Korea

Thursday, June 26

At Rio de Janeiro
 Belgium vs. South Korea

Monday, June 16

At Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Germany vs. Portugal

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Ghana vs. United States

At Fortaleza, June 21

Germany vs. Ghana

At Manaus, Brazil

Portugal vs. United States

Thursday, June 26

Germany vs. United States

At Brasilia, Brazil

Portugal vs. United States

GROUP H

W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0	0
South Korea	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday, June 17

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Belgium vs. Algeria

At Curitiba, Brazil
 Russia vs. South Korea

Sunday, June 22

At Rio de Janeiro
 Belgium vs. Russia

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

Algeria vs. South Korea

Thursday, June 26

At Rio de Janeiro
 Belgium vs. South Korea

At Curitiba, Brazil

Algeria vs. Russia

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
D.C.	1	0	3	2	1
New England	7	5	23	21	18
Sporting KC	6	5	22	21	14
Washington	5	4	19	14	12
New York	4	5	18	22	22
Columbus	4	5	18	18	19
Houston	5	2	17	29	16
Philadelphia	3	4	13	18	19
Chicago	2	4	14	22	25
Montreal	2	4	13	26	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	6	2	17	25	21
Real Salt Lake	6	2	17	25	21
San Jose	5	3	16	21	18
FC Dallas	6	7	22	28	28
Vancouver	5	2	16	22	20
Portland	4	3	15	20	20
Los Angeles	4	3	15	17	11
San Jose	3	5	12	16	16
Chivas USA	2	7	11	14	26

TOP 3 — Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday, June 25

Montreal at Vancouver

Friday, June 27

Toronto at New York
 Sporting Kansas City at Portland

Saturday, June 28

Seattle FC at D.C. United
 Philadelphia at New England
 FC Dallas at Colorado
 Los Angeles at San Jose
 Real Salt Lake at Chivas USA

Sunday, June 29

Houston at Montreal

Wednesday

United 4, Impact 2

D.C. Montreal 4-2
First half: 1-0, D.C. United, Silva 1 (Espindola), 6th minute, 2, Montreal, McInerney 5 (Carmar), 12th, 3, Montreal, (Uruti) 30th, 4, Montreal, 21st, 4, United, Delon (Espindola), 23rd, 5, D.C. United, Silva 2 (Carmar), 30th, 6, D.C. United, Silva (penalty kick), 45th+
Goalies: D.C. United, Andrew Dykstra; Montreal, Troy Perkins.
Yellow Cards: Romero, Montreal, 20; Spector, Montreal, 33; Rodriguez, Montreal, 39; Rodriguez, Montreal, 81st; Arnaud, D.C. United, 81st.
A-14,135 (13,034)

FC Dallas 2, Timbers 2

FC Dallas Portland 2-2
First half: 1-0, FC Dallas, Castillo 9 (Perez), 27th minute, 2, FC Dallas, Perez 5 (Castillo), 39th, 2, United, Silva (penalty kick), 45th+
Goalies: FC Dallas, Paul Fernandez; Portland, Donovan Ricketts.
Yellow Cards: Adair, Portland, 54th; Keel, FC Dallas, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd,

STANLEY CUP FINALS

Scoreboard



Stanley Cup finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 1
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
Los Angeles 5, N.Y. Rangers 4, 2OT
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 0

Wednesday: N.Y. Rangers 2, Los Angeles 1

Friday: at Los Angeles
x-Monday: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Wednesday, June 18: at Los Angeles

Wednesday

Rangers 2, Kings 1
Los Angeles 0 1 0-1
N.Y. Rangers 1 1 0-2

First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Pouliot 5 (Moore, Brassard), 7:25
Second Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, St. Louis 8:39 (Stapan); 6:27, 3, Los Angeles, Brown 6, 8:46

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 11-15-15—41, N.Y. Rangers 7-11-1-13

Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 2, N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3

Goalies—Los Angeles, Quick 15-10-0 (19 shots-17 saves); N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 13-10-0 (41-40)
A—18,006 (18,006), T—2:37.

Playoff leaders

Scoring Through June 11		GP	G	A	PTS
Anze Kopitar, LA	25	10	21	26	24
Jeff Carter, LA	25	8	16	24	24
Justin Williams, LA	25	8	16	24	24
Marian Gaborik, LA	24	8	16	24	24
Patrick Kane, Chi	19	12	20	20	20
Jonathan Tjebk, Chi	15	5	12	17	17
Brew Bogardt, LA	19	6	10	16	16
Ryan McDonagh, NYR	24	4	12	16	16
Martin St. Louis, NYR	24	8	7	15	15
Derek Stepan, NYR	23	10	15	15	15
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	12	4	11	15	15
Brent Seabrook, Chi	16	5	8	14	14
Dustin Brown, LA	22	6	8	14	14
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	13	6	8	14	14
Rik Snijman, NYR	17	9	14	14	14
Zach Parise, Min	13	4	10	14	14
Marian Gaborik, LA	24	5	9	13	13
Tyler Tofooli, LA	25	7	6	13	13
Mats Zuccarello, NYR	24	5	8	13	13
Lars Eller, Min	19	5	8	12	12
Jake Muzzin, LA	25	6	6	12	12
Derrick Brassard, NYR	22	6	6	12	12
Tanner Pearson, LA	23	4	8	12	12
Chris Kreider, NYR	22	4	8	12	12
Rene Bourque, Mtl	17	8	3	11	11
Carl Hagelin, NYR	24	7	4	11	11
Brian Richards, NYR	24	5	6	11	11
Max Pacioretty, Mtl	17	5	6	11	11
Duncan Keith, Chi	15	7	11	11	11
Goalending					
Tuukka Rask, Bos	12	348	25	1.99	
Henrik Lundqvist, NYR	24	686	51	2.15	
Carey Price, Mtl	12	358	29	2.35	
Marc-Andre Fleury, Pit	13	378	32	2.40	
Frank Cameranesi, Chi	19	590	25	2.53	
Ilya Bryzgalov, Min	9	182	21	2.63	
Jonathan Quick, LA	25	744	67	2.66	
Steve Miller, NYR	6	152	19	2.70	
Semyon Varlamov, Col	6	231	20	2.78	
Fred Anderson, Ana	7	189	19	3.10	
Sergei Bobrovsky, Cib	6	218	20	3.17	

Calendar

June 18 — Last possible day for Stanley Cup finals.
June 26 — NHL awards, Las Vegas.
June 27-28 — NHL Draft, Philadelphia.
July 1 — Free agency begins.
July 1-11 — Deadline for player-elected salary arbitration notification.
July 1-11 — Deadline for player-elected salary arbitration notification.
July 1-11 — Salary arbitration hearings held.
Aug. 8 — Deadline for salary arbitration decisions.

Lundqvist keeps Rangers alive

New York goalie stops 40 LA shots to avoid a sweep by Kings

By IRA PODELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The champagne the Los Angeles Kings had ready for a coronation stayed in boxes. The New York Rangers suddenly have some life in the Stanley Cup finals.

Henrik Lundqvist made 40 saves and had the Madison Square Garden crowd chanting his name in the Rangers' 2-1 victory in Game 4 that kept the Kings from a sweep on Wednesday night.

Benoit Pouliot and Martin St. Louis each scored for the Rangers. Los Angeles leads the series 3-1 and will get its second shot to claim the Cup for the second time in three years on Friday at home.

"We wanted to close it out tonight and we weren't able to do it," Kings forward Anze Kopitar said. "Now we have a desperate team coming into our building."

The Los Angeles hoped to become the first team since 1998 to complete a sweep in the finals. The Rangers will try to be the second team to erase a 3-0 hole in the finals and go on to win the Cup.

The Kings had that kind of comeback in the first round against San Jose.

"It's not impossible," Lundqvist said.

Twice Los Angeles put the puck on the goal line, but couldn't get it all the way across. The last came with 1:11 left when Rangers forward Derek Stepan pushed the puck out of danger in the crease after it got behind Lundqvist.

"I was just holding my breath," Rangers defenseman Dan Girardi said. "All those guys in the crease did a great job to keep it out."

Pouliot scored 7:25 into the first period and St. Louis added a goal in the second. New York squandered multiple two-goal advantages in losing the first two games in overtime in Los Angeles.

Not this time. Lundqvist and the Rangers continued their mastery of extending their seasons. New York is 11-2 in the past 13 games when facing elimination, and Lundqvist was in goal for all of them.

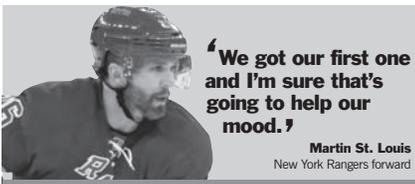
"When everything is on the line, you just have to challenge yourself the right way," Lundqvist said. "You have to be focused. One mistake and the season is over. You're definitely aware of that."

The Rangers also have won an



MARK RIGHTMIRE, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, left, blocks a shot as Mike Richards, center, of the Los Angeles Kings and the Rangers' Dan Girardi move in front of the net during the first period of Game 4 of the Stanley Cup finals on Wednesday in New York. Lundqvist made 40 saves in the Rangers' 2-1 victory.



Martin St. Louis
 New York Rangers forward

NHL-record eight consecutive home games when facing elimination, dating to 2008, behind Lundqvist.

"We got our first one," St. Louis said, "and I'm sure that's going to help our mood."

The Kings were quick to the puck all night and pressed for the tying goal in the third. They outshot the Rangers 15-1 in the frame and 41-19 overall.

"I think we sat back a little too much in the third period, but we didn't blow the lead this time," Stepan said.

Two nights after Jonathan Quick stopped 32 shots in a 3-0 victory that put the Kings on the brink of another championship, Pouliot got a puck past him.

St. Louis then put in a rebound at the left post 6:27 into the second, giving the Rangers their fifth

front of Lundqvist before taking a forehead into the right post to make it 2-1 with 11:13 left in the second.

The Kings had a chance to get even, but the Rangers killed Dominic Moore's cross-checking penalty late in the period. Jeff Carter then got behind Girardi before being stopped on a break-away by Lundqvist.

Pouliot broke Quick's shutout streak at 123 minutes, 1 second. New York hadn't scored since Derick Brassard's second-period goal in Game 2. Pouliot's fifth goal of the playoffs came 2 seconds after Kings defenseman Willie Mitchell finished serving a high-sticking penalty.

John Moore fired a drive from the center of the blue line that Pouliot deflected high with his stick blade into the top right corner behind Quick.

The Kings almost tied it at 1-1 with 8:11 left in the first period—seconds into a power play—when defenseman Alec Martinez's shot got behind Lundqvist and slid along the red goal line without crossing it. Rangers defenseman Anton Stralman cleared the puck away as Carter and Marian Gaborik pressured in the crease.

Video replay clearly showed that the puck didn't go over the line.



Stanley Cup finals: Game 5
N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles
 AFN-Sports
 2 p.m. Saturday CET
 9 p.m. Saturday JKT

two-goal lead of the series. But just like in Games 1 and 2, a two-goal deficit sparked the Kings. At the tail end of a Rangers power play, Girardi broke his stick and lost the puck to Kings captain Dustin Brown for a breakaway. Brown made several moves in

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MLB

Roundup

Darvish, Choo halt Marlins

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Yu Darvish let out a good yell and pumped both fists before catcher Chris Gimenez greeted him in front of the mound.

The Texas ace wasn't necessarily celebrating his first complete game in the major leagues. His battery mate says he does that all the time.

"He just kind of looked at me and goes, 'Yeah!' That's what I said back to him," Gimenez said. "He likes going 'Yes!' all the time. We kind of goof around with each other about it."

This was their best reason yet to have a little fun. Darvish struck out 10 in his six-hitter. Shin-Soo Choo broke a long hitless streak with a three-run double and the Rangers denied Miami's bid for a record interleague winning streak, beating the Marlins 6-0 Wednesday night.

Darvish (7-2) struck out the side in the eighth to end a streak of one baserunner in each of the first seven innings for the Marlins.

The Japanese right-hander wrapped up his 73rd career start by getting Garrett Jones to swing at a pitch in the dirt. Gimenez had to finish it off with a throw in first.

The closest Darvish had come to a complete game were the two times he lost a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth inning. The first was a perfect game bid against Houston last year. The other was against Boston, a month ago, although a scoring change a few days later altered that.

"I wasn't really conscious of throwing a complete game," Darvish said through an translator. "I thought I was going to be out of the game after the eighth inning, but when (manager Ron Washington) told me that I'm going in the ninth inning as well, I decided to go. And I also wanted to face (Giancarlo Stanton) again."

Darvish gave up his final single to Stanton leading off the ninth, but Casey McGehee grounded into Miami's third double play before Jones whiffed.

Reds 5, Dodgers 0: Johnny Cueto matched his career high with 12 strikeouts in six innings and Joey Votto and Jay Bruce — missing much of the season — each drove in runs, leading host Cincinnati past Los Angeles.

Cueto (6-5) followed his shortest start of the season with one of his most dominating. He gave up three singles and didn't walk a batter, leaving after his 112th pitch. Cueto lasted only five innings during an 8-0 loss to Philadelphia on Friday night.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 0: Chen Wei-ying allowed four hits in seven innings and Chris Davis homered as Baltimore beat struggling Boston at soggy Camden Yards.

Nick Hundley had two hits and an RBI for the Orioles, who yielded only one run in winning two of three from the defending World Series champions.

Rays 6, Cardinals 3: Desmond Jennings had a two-run single in a four-run fourth inning as host Tampa Bay ended a club-record 31-inning scoring drought in a victory over St. Louis.

Tampa Bay won for just the second time in 16 games after having been shut out in its previous three contests. The Rays had scored 35 runs over the previous 15 games.

Phillies 3, Padres 0: Reid Brignac hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Philadelphia past San Diego, giving the Phillies consecutive victories for the first time since a three-game streak in May 17-20.

Rockies 8, Braves 2: Tyler Matzek allowed just two hits in the first seven innings of his major league debut before faltering in the eighth, as both Colorado beat Atlanta.

The left-hander retired the first 13 hitters and 21 of 23 before allowing three straight singles to start the eighth. He's the third Colorado pitcher in the last six days to make his debut.

White Sox 8, Tigers 2: Jose Abreu hit an early homer off Justin Verlander, then singled to start a seven-run burst in the sixth inning that sent John Danks and Chicago past visiting Detroit.

Abreu went 3-for-4 with a walk and scored twice. The Cuban rookie has 19 home runs and 50 RBIs this season.

Chicago's (6-6) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 5½ innings.

Brewers 3, Mets 1: Jonathan Lucroy had three hits and Why Peleara pitched into the seventh inning to send visiting Milwaukee past slumping New York.

Lucroy doubled twice and drove in a run, raising his batting average to .341. Peleara (6-5) used a 96-98 mph fastball and nasty slider to hold the punchless Mets to four hits in 6½ innings. New York lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Twins 7, Blue Jays 2: Josh Willingham hit a two-run home run and Minnesota's Phil Hughes struck out a season-high nine in seven shutout innings to win in Toronto for the first time in almost three years.

Kendrys Morales had three of Minnesota's season-high 16 hits and is 6-for-13 with three RBIs since making his Twins debut Monday.

Astros 5, Diamondbacks 1: Chris Carter homered twice and Dallas Keuchel pitched eight strong innings and won for the sixth time in seven starts for host Houston.

Pirates 4, Cubs 2: Andrew McCutchen homered and reached base four times to help host Pittsburgh beat Chicago.

Pittsburgh pounded Jason Hammel (6-4) for 11 hits in five innings, snapping his streaks of 14½ innings without allowing a run and 52 innings without allowing a homer when McCutchen hit his 10th in the first.

Royals 4, Indians 1: Yorlano Ventura dominated Cleveland for seven innings as host Kansas City scored all of its runs on sacrifice flies.

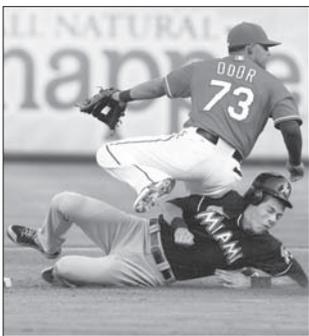
The four sacrifice flies tied a franchise record, and the Royals became only the second team to score four runs all on sacrifice flies since it became an official stat in 1954. The Montreal Expos did it in an 8-4, 14-inning loss to the Chicago Cubs on May 28, 1980, according to STATS.

Nationals 6, Giants 2: At San Francisco, Jayson Werth hit his first homer in almost a month and drove in three runs as Washington capitalized on Matt Cain's erratic start to earn its fourth straight win.

Cain (1-4) walked the first three batters he faced before Adam LaRoche's two-run single highlighted a three-run first inning. Werth's solo shot in the fifth and two-run single in the ninth provided the rest of the pop for the Nationals, who have won 10 of 12, including the last three at San Francisco.

Athletics 7, Angels 1: Stephen Vogt hit his first home run of the season, a two-run shot against Jered Weaver, as visiting Oakland increased its AL West lead over Los Angeles to 3½ games.

Tommy Milone (4-3) allowed a run and six hits in 6½ innings with four strikeouts and two walks. The left-hander is 4-0 with a 2.00 ERA in his last seven starts overall, and 4-0 with a 3.54 ERA in five career starts at Angels Stadium.



LM OTERO/AP

Texas Rangers' Marlins' Christian Yelich at second base turning a double play during the third inning on Wednesday. Miami's Ed Lucas was out at first.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Yankees pitcher Masahiro Tanaka reacts after finishing a complete game against the Mariners on Wednesday for his 10th win of the year.

Tanaka fans 11 in 10th win of season

By TIM BOWTH
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Superlatives will be scarce come September if Masahiro Tanaka continues this pace.

For now, Joe Girardi and the rest of the New York Yankees are just thankful they have the Japanese right-hander pitching like one of the best in baseball.

"He's been really, really big. You look at the numbers he's put up, the wins that he has, the distances he's given us during the course of the season," Girardi said. "He's meant a lot."

Tanaka added another notch to his stellar first two months in the majors, striking out 11 and tossing a complete game Wednesday night as the New York Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners 4-2.

Tanaka became the second pitcher in baseball with 10 wins and won his fourth straight start. It was on the verge of being possibly his most impressive performance of the season before giving up a two-run homer to Robinson Cano in the ninth inning that ruined the shutout.

That only made Tanaka more determined to finish off his second complete game of the season. He struck out Kyle Seager and Logan Morrison to finish off the victory.

"Obviously I wasn't very happy about that home run, but at the end I'm pretty satisfied I was able to go all nine innings tonight," Tanaka said through a translator. Tanaka allowed six hits, walked one and led the AL with a 2.02 ERA. He tied for the wins lead with Toronto's Mark Buehrle, who is 10-2. Tanaka has allowed only four earned runs in the past 29½ innings and hasn't given up more than three earned runs in any start.

That number would be less if not for Cano hitting his third homer of the season — and first at Safeco Field — in the ninth. James Jones reached on an infield single with one out and Cano hit a drive out to left-center on the first pitch.

"He was dealing. He was the same guy you see on TV," Cano said. "He put the ball where he wants. He's filthy."

Tanaka cruised from the start. It took the Japanese rookie 15 pitches to get through the first two innings and 26 pitches setting down the first nine Mariners in order.

Seattle got baserunners in the fourth when Jones and Seager singled, but the threat ended when Morrison struck out on a check swing.

It also started a strikeout binge from Tanaka. Beginning with Morrison, six of the next seven outs came via strikeout.

Tanaka struck out the side in the sixth, getting Cole Gillespie and Andy Chavez swinging before capping the inning by getting Jones looking at strike three.

Cano broke the strikeout streak at five when he grounded out to open the seventh. Seager then walked on four pitches, the first walk issued by Tanaka. But Morrison grounded into a double play and Tanaka was through seven innings on just 79 pitches.

Tanaka also wiggled out of trouble in the eighth after Mike Zimino's double and Brad Miller's single. Just as movement started in the Yankees bullpen, Gillespie lined out and Miller was doubled off first base to end the inning.

"I never really thought about it going into the season. I just thought about taking it game by game, just trying to go out there and do the best that I can each game," Tanaka said. "As a result this is where I am."

WORLD CUP

GROUP F

Players to watch



Iran

Javad Nekounam: Long-serving Iran captain Nekounam has been a mainstay of the national team since making his international debut in 2000.

The dynamic Al-Kuwait midfielder has a habit of coming up with a goal just when his team needs it most.

Reza Ghoochannejhad: A relatively recent addition to the team — visa issues delayed the debut of the Dutch-born player — but fleet-footed Charlton forward Ghoochannejhad played an important role in Iran's successful qualification campaign, scoring three goals in his first three qualifiers.

He has now scored nine goals in 11 games.



A January move from Standard Liege to Charlton in England's second division has increased his playing time ahead of the World Cup and now the player dubbed "Gucci," who has become one of Iran's biggest stars, should arrive in Brazil ready.

Reza Ghoochannejhad

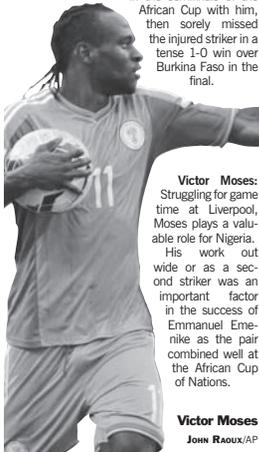
JULIO CORTES/AP



Nigeria

Emmanuel Emenike: The difference between Nigeria with and Nigeria without Emenike is clear.

The Super Eagles powered past Mali 4-1 in the semifinals of the African Cup with him, then sorely missed the injured striker in a tense 1-0 win over Burkina Faso in the final.



Victor Moses: Struggling for game time at Liverpool, Moses plays a valuable role for Nigeria.

His work out wide or as a second striker was an important factor in the success of Emmanuel Emenike as the pair combined well at the African Cup of Nations.

Victor Moses
JOHN RAOUX/AP



Argentina's Ricardo Alvarez celebrates his goal against Slovenia at an international friendly in La Plata, Argentina on Saturday. Argentina is an overwhelming favorite to win Group F with Iran, Bosnia and Nigeria fighting to advance to the second round.

NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Players to watch



Argentina

Lionel Messi: Though immensely gifted, Messi was too young to make an impact at the 2006 World Cup. Four years later, he failed, like Argentina overall, to fulfill expectations in South Africa.

This year's World Cup in Brazil is Messi's chance to make a mark on football's greatest stage and prove to those who still have doubts about his ability.

At 26, the Barcelona maestro will be at a peak age for a footballer and he'll be surrounded by talent that won its qualifying group and is considered one of the title favorites. Even if Argentina doesn't make it all the way, watching Messi weave through opponents promises to be one of the highlights of the World Cup.



Gonzalo Higuain: Higuain's transfer from Real Madrid to Napoli appears to have done him good.

Even though he scored 121 goals over seven seasons in Madrid, Higuain never established himself as a regular starter. He has done that at Napoli, where he's become a mainstay in the attack and the team's top scorer.

Lionel Messi

EDUARDO DI BONA/AP

Race for second place

Argentina is the overwhelming favorite to win group

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

Barring a major upset at the World Cup, Argentina will finish at the top of Group F and let the other three teams compete for second place.

On paper, not much separates African champion Nigeria and Bosnia, while Iran appears to be the long shot to earn a place in the round of 16.

Here are five things to know about Group F:

1 Classic rivalry: This is Nigeria's fifth World Cup and the fourth time they have been put in the same group as Argentina.

The South Americans have won each encounter so far by a single goal, including a 1-0 victory in 2010.

Argentina also came out ahead when the two nations met in the 2008 Olympic final.

2 Argentina's weakness: Lionel Messi, Gonzalo Higuain, Angel Di Maria and Sergio Aguero — Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella has more attacking talent than he can fit into the lineup.

By comparison, the defense doesn't look quite as impressive.

Still, concerns about Argentina's vulnerability in the back shouldn't be exaggerated. The team conceded only 15 goals in 16 qualifying matches.

3 First-timers: Of the 32 countries in the tournament, only Bosnia is making its first World Cup appearance.

Bosnia coach Safet Susic has seen World Cup action before, though. As a player he participated in the 1982 and 1990 tournaments for Yugoslavia.

4 Iran's set pieces: Iran isn't likely to rattle its opponents with technical brilliance, but watch out for set pieces.

Of the 30 goals the Iranians scored in qualifying, nine came on corner kicks or free kicks.

5 Bosnian firepower: Bosnia also scored 30 goals in World Cup qualifying, but in only 10 matches (Iran played 16).

Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko accounted for one-third of Bosnia's tally, scoring 10 goals. Only Robin van Persie of the Netherlands scored more goals in the European qualifying groups with 11.



Bosnia

Edin Dzeko: While playing a major role in Manchester City's Premier League-winning campaign, Dzeko also managed to score 10 of Bosnia's 30 goals in World Cup qualifying.

Dzeko, nicknamed "the Diamond" in Bosnia, has scored 26 goals in 49 international matches and will be the key man up front in an attack-minded lineup.

Miralem Pjanic: Roma attacking midfielder Pjanic provides flair in the Bosnia midfield.

Pjanic started his international career in Luxembourg following his family's move to the country shortly before the outbreak of the war in Bosnia in 1991. He had to wait two years to get permission to play for Bosnia, making his debut in 2008. He has scored eight goals in 46 appearances for Bosnia.



Edin Dzeko
JEFF ROZENSON/AP

WORLD CUP

Players to watch

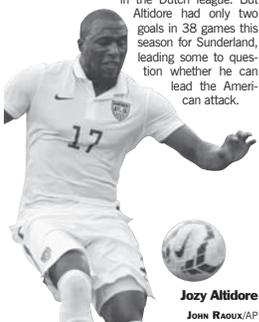


United States

Tim Howard: Having perhaps his best season for Everton. The 35-year-old goalkeeper, preparing for his second World Cup as the No. 1 choice, will be counted on to blunt the attack of talented opponents such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Mario Gomez.

Clint Dempsey: Now 31, Dempsey struggled for goals for a year with Tottenham and Seattle before a spurt with the Sounders this spring. Dempsey, who replaced Carlos Bocanegra as the American captain, can be deployed as a striker in a 4-4-2 or as a withdrawn forward in a 4-2-3-1.

Jozy Altidore: Still only 24, Altidore seemed to have his breakout season in 2012-13 when he scored 31 goals in 41 matches for AZ Alkmaar in the Dutch league. But Altidore had only two goals in 38 games this season for Sunderland, leading some to question whether he can lead the American attack.



Jozy Altidore
JOHN RAOUX/AP



Ghana

Michael Essien: Some Ghanaians have the feeling that Michael Essien owes them.

Often outstanding for European clubs Chelsea, Real Madrid and now AC Milan, the hard-working central midfielder has missed many of Ghana's big moments recently, including the last World Cup, because of injuries and then his sabbatical.

The 31-year-old Essien returned to the squad last year and his ability to power Ghana's World Cup challenge from the middle of the field may be crucial to the Black Stars' hopes of reaching the latter stages.

Andre Ayew: The son of Abedi Pele, who is still recognized as Ghana's best player ever, Ayew comes from the closest thing to Ghanaian soccer royalty.

The 24-year-old winger has pace and skill also play as a second striker, but has sometimes been a trouble-shome figure in the Ghana setup.

Ayew was excluded from the squad for the last African Cup after failing to report for a pre-tournament training camp. He has since made up with coach Kwesi Appiah and is one of Ghana's most creative players.

Andre Ayew
THEMBA HADZEE/AP



United States head coach Jurgen Klinsmann will try and knock off his home country of Germany in Group G play.

JULIO CORTEZ/AP

German engineering

Group favorites to see familiar faces

By NESHA STARCEVIC
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Germany will have two of its former coaches trying to prevent it from winning Group G at the World Cup.

By adding Bertie Vogts to his United States coaching staff, Jurgen Klinsmann now has the last coach to win a title with Germany by his side.

Also, Cristiano Ronaldo and his teammates may experience some "home" feeling when Portugal returns to its former colony. And half-brothers Kevin-Prince Boateng and Jerome Boateng will renew their World Cup rivalry on opposing sides when Ghana takes on Germany.

Here are five things to know about Group G at the World Cup:

1 German hunger: Germany is always among the highest-ranked teams in the world, but the last of its three World Cup titles came in 1990 and the last at a major tournament was the 1996 European Championship.

Germany has a winning record against all three group opponents — the United States (6-3), Portugal (9-3-5) and Ghana (2-0).

Germany has beaten Portugal in their past three matches, twice at European Championships and in the match for third place at the 2006 World Cup. The Germans beat Ghana in their group match at the 2010 World Cup and also defeated the United States in the quarterfinals of the 2002 tournament.

2 Ghana hopes: Ghana reached the quarterfinals four years ago — beating the United States in the process. Ghana also knocked out the Americans in its only other World Cup appearance in 2006.

The Boateng brothers are likely to face each other again, just as they did four years ago when Germany edged Ghana 1-0 in South Africa.

Raised by different mothers in Germany, the brothers play in the Bundesliga — Jerome is a defender at Bayern Munich and Kevin-Prince is a midfielder with Schalke.

3 American recruiting: By bringing Bertie Vogts into his staff, Jurgen Klinsmann has recruited the coach who guided Germany to its last major title at Euro 1996, when Klinsmann still played for Germany.

But that's not all.

It can be said only slightly jokingly that the United States will start as many Germans against Germany as its opponent. Starting a trend that began when Klinsmann's predecessor, Bob Bradley, persuaded Nuremberg defender Timmy Chandler and Schalke midfielder Jermaine Jones to play for the U.S. team, Klinsmann has successfully recruited German-Americans Fabian Johnson, Daniel Williams, Alfredo Morales, Terrence Boyd and Julian Green.

Jones and Johnson are likely to be in the World Cup squad and perhaps others. Johnson started for Germany against England in the 2009 European Under-21 Championship final, and Green played for Germany in three qualifiers for the 2014 European Under-19 Championship.

4 Ronaldo's Portugal: Portugal may not be much beyond Cristiano Ronaldo, but sometimes he is enough.

The winner of the Ballon d'Or as the best player in the world, Ronaldo scored all four goals in two matches that allowed Portugal to advance over Sweden in the World Cup playoffs.

He even earned the applause of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Sweden's equally egocentric star. Add in Ronaldo's record scoring in the Champions League and Portugal has a big weapon in the attack.

Portugal also should be feeling more at home in Brazil than its opponents. Portuguese explorers were the first Europeans to set foot in Brazil and Portugal ran Brazil as a colony. The two countries share the language and Portugal should have plenty of local supporters.

5 Germany's Italian nightmare: The good news for Germany is that it cannot meet Italy until the semifinals. The bad news is that Germany has never beaten Italy at a major tournament.

Most recently, Italy defeated Germany in the semifinals of the 2006 World Cup, when Germany hosted the tournament. It also knocked Germany out of the semifinals of the 2012 European Championship.

Players to watch



Germany

Philipp Lahm: Captain since 2010, Lahm will be playing at his third World Cup and already has made 105 national team appearances.

Lahm, 29, has been versatile playing with equal success on the left or right flank on defense, although he personally prefers the right side.

He played both positions as necessary for both Bayern and the national team, until Bayern coach Pep Guardiola put him in the defensive midfield to fill a gap left by injuries. Lahm excelled again.



Thomas Muller: Bayern Munich midfielder is another versatile player whose style of play makes him hard to figure out.

Thomas Muller
FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP



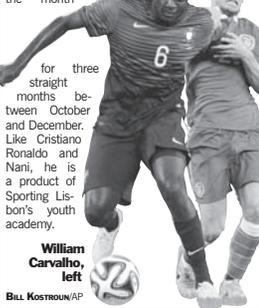
Portugal

Cristiano Ronaldo: Along with Lionel Messi and Neymar, Ronaldo is one of the world-class stars expected to light up the tournament.

Since his debut at 18 in 2003, Ronaldo has grown into the Portuguese team's dominant figure. Now 29, he will arguably be at the peak of his international career in Brazil.

Ronaldo has been in deadly form in front of goal. This season, he became Portugal's all-time leading scorer and passed Real Madrid great Ferenc Puskas' mark of 242 goals for the Spanish club.

William Carvalho: Defensive midfielder William Carvalho, 22, is regarded as one of Portugal's promising newcomers. He was named the Portuguese league's player of the month.



for three straight months between October and December. Like Cristiano Ronaldo and Nani, he is a product of Sporting Lisbon's youth academy.

William Carvalho, left
BILL KOSTROUN/AP

WORLD CUP

Americans happy as things heat up

US says it's not fazed by steamy weather that is causing European teams concern

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SÃO PAULO — While some World Cup teams whine about withering weather and troublesome travel, American players say: Bring it on!

European teams worry they will wilt. The United States considers cauldron-like climates a regular finishing touch, as if the Americans were a Baked Alaska flambé.

And if FIFA added a Road Warrior prize to the Golden Ball, Golden Boot and Golden Glove, the U.S. would be assured of taking home an award.

"When you talk about playing in the heat, the travel, it doesn't bother us," midfielder Michael Bradley said on Monday. "It's not only does it not bother us, it excites us to see that now the other teams are so worried about it."

The Americans have the earliest first-round trek among the 32 teams at 8,800 air miles, chartering round-trip flights from Sao Paulo to Natal (1,420 each way), Manaus (1,680) and Recife (1,300).

That's quite a contrast to four years ago, where the U.S. had the shortest group-stage travel in South Africa. To reach their games, the Americans took bus rides from Irene to Rustenburg (62 miles each way), Johannesburg (24) and Pretoria (11) for a total of 194 miles. They needed to pack for a weekender only once during the first round, staying at their base hotel for the second

and third matches.

This year they'll change cities and climates repeatedly. Tuesday's training session at Sao Paulo Futebol Clube started in a 62-degree temperature with a cooling drizzle, but the Americans' games up north figure to be played in the mid-80s or higher. And extreme humidity could make each stadium feel like a sauna.

Accustomed to an August-through-May club schedule in Europe, where players use gloves and fans insulate in thermals, some soccer officials fret. No European nation has won a World Cup played in the Americas, where Brazil has taken three titles, and Argentina and Uruguay two apiece.

Before the World Cup draw in December, England coach Roy Hodgson called the Amazon rain forest city of Manaus "problematic" and said "you have a better chance if you get one of the venues where the climate is kinder."

"It's going to be incredibly humid and hot," Germany coach Joachim Loew said. "We must get used to it, in training and preparing."

The U.S. opens Monday with an evening match against Ghana in Natal. The AccuWeather forecast calls for a daytime high in the mid-80s, dropping into the 70s in the evening with a couple of showers possible.

The Americans next play in Manaus for a 6 p.m. game against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal on June 22. The extended forecast calls for temperatures in the high-80s that day.



JULIO CORTESZ/AP

U.S. captain Clint Dempsey, left, and Matt Besler train in Sao Paulo on Wednesday. The Americans say the warm temperatures expected this week at their game sites won't hinder their play.

The U.S. completes group play against three-time champion Germany in an afternoon match in Recife, a port city, where temperatures are typically in the low-80s.

While that might be unfamiliar for natives of Munich and Mannheim, it's rather routine for the red, white and blue.

"I lived 4½ years in Houston, and that's 100 degrees every single day with humidity plus," defender Geoff Cameron said, "so if you can survive that, you can survive anything."

Europeans complained about heat during the 1970 and '86 World Cups in Mexico and were stunned by a heat wave in 1994 that turned matches into endur-

ance tests at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Jurgen Klinsmann scored twice as defending champion Germany built a three-goal lead against South Korea, then held on for a 3-2 win.

Klinsmann, now the U.S. coach, learned from that and the February 2013 opener in the final round of World Cup qualifying, when the Americans went to Central America and wilted during the second half of a 2-1 loss.

"Dallas at 120 degrees at 12 o'clock kickoff time because of TV rights to Europe was an experience," he said. "You want to make sure that you're hydrated. You want to make sure that you're

not cramping up, similar to that experience in Honduras in San Pedro Sula."

The American players who are veterans of Major League Soccer are used to changing three time zones on coast-to-coast trips.

"That's the hope, that now something that's being talked about in a negative way with a lot of other teams is something that we can use to our advantage," Bradley maintained. "Jurgen said it best: 'It's going to be a World Cup of patience, of knowing how to deal with the elements, of being able to suffer at times, and so I think we're excited by it.'"

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley contributed to this report.

Optimistic Ghana seeks to derail US bid again

By STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — In its final exhibition before facing the United States in the World Cup, Ghana practiced celebrating.

Captain Asamoah Gyan scored a break-away goal against South Korea and then launched into the azonto, a two-step dance popular in Ghana. Soon he was joined in the corner of the field by a cluster of teammates, their hands, hips and feet moving in impressive synchronicity.

Past World Cup matches against the United States have given Ghana plenty to celebrate. The rivalry will be renewed Monday in Brazil, and the Black Stars want to be ready.

"The United States are a very, very good team," coach James Appiah said. "It's not going to be easy. We have to make sure our players are playing their roles well. We hope to give them a very good game."

The Ghanaians have every reason to be optimistic, because they eliminated the United States from the past two World

Cups. So they'll have the azonto cued up, and other dances ready as well.

"We've got different styles — three or four," Appiah said with a smile. "The players have to decide which one they want to use, but we hope to showcase one of them during the World Cup."

Ghana, a defender in the United States group play in 2006, and in the round of 16 in 2010. A 4-0 victory against South Korea in Miami on Monday suggested Ghana will again be a handful.

"Bring them on, bring them on — the United States," a reporter from Ghana shouted with a grin in the press box at halftime of the exhibition. "America, we are coming."

The victory over the U.S. team four years ago sent Ghana into the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time. Ghana was embraced as "Africa's Team" in the first World Cup on the continent and came within inches of becoming the first African squad to reach the semifinals, but lost to Uruguay in a shootout after Gyan hit the crossbar on a late penalty kick that would

have won the game.

FIFA rankings suggest Ghana is the underdog in talent-laden Group G, which also includes the No. 13-ranked United States, No. 2 Germany and No. 4 Portugal. But no one is likely to take the Black Stars lightly.

"They are a very good team, young, very good mentality," former U.S. national team coach Bora Milutinovic said after watching Ghana beat South Korea. "It will be a big challenge for all teams in this group. Everybody is very strong. It is like a small World Cup between four teams."

There's been some turnover on the Black Stars' roster since they last faced the United States. Only six starters from the game against the Americans in 2010 are on this year's squad, which includes 16 World Cup newcomers. Ghana is the youngest team in the tournament with an average age of 25 years, 6 months.

Ghana may be without striker Majeed Waris, who hurt his left thigh in Monday's friendly. An MRI exam revealed a tear. The team doctor said Tuesday he hopes Waris can return "pretty soon," but added

the striker might be left off the roster, which must be submitted by Sunday.

The squad will include Gyan and midfielder Sulley Muntari, both playing in their third World Cup, and star midfielder Michael Essien of AC Milan. Defender Jonathan Mensah and forward Kevin-Prince Boateng are also World Cup veterans. "We've got experienced players. We've got youthful players," Appiah said. "The experienced players want to leave a name before they go, and the younger ones want to make a mark."

Rising stars include 22-year-old Jordan Ayew, whose father, Abedi Pele, is considered Ghana's greatest player. Ayew scored three times Monday against South Korea after entering the game as an injury replacement.

When asked after the match to select two players likely to emerge as stars in Brazil, Appiah demurred.

"It's really difficult to pick two of my players who I think can make an impact in the World Cup," he said. "I'll choose 11 for you."

WORLD CUP



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

DaMarcus Beasley, left, and Kyle Beckerman compete for the ball during a training session in Sao Paulo on Wednesday.

Ready: Keeper, forwards seem to be only thing set for opener

FROM BACK PAGE

No. 4 Portugal and FIFA World Cup winner the Cristiano Ronaldo. They close group play against three-time champion Germany, the world's second-ranked team.

"I think we are every year making another step forward," Klinsmann said.

A former star forward from Germany who won the 1990 World Cup and the 1996 European Championship, Klinsmann moved to California with his American wife after he retired as a player in 1998. While he coached Germany to the World Cup semifinals in 2006, he long was viewed as a U.S. coach in waiting, and he took over three years ago from Bob Bradley.

Klinsmann led the Americans to the title in last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup and the team's seventh straight World Cup berth. He made the controversial decision to cut 32-year-old Landon Donovan, who had five goals in three previous World Cups and is the American career leader in goals (57) and assists (58).

Defender Carlos Bocanegra was dropped in early 2013, and 31-year-old Clint Dempsey replaced him as captain.

"The confidence seems to be growing," Dempsey said. "The quality seems to be getting better. There's more competition for spots. They just keep pushing us even more to get better and better."

Tim Howard returns from 2010 as the No. 1 goalkeeper and has the experience of eight seasons as a Premier League starter with Everton.

Fabian Johnson appears to be the favorite to start at right back, with Matt Besler and Stoke's Geoff Cameron in the center, a pairing seen just once before the Americans' final three World Cup warm-ups, and the first central defensive pairing with no World

Cup experience since 1990. DaMarcus Beasley, hoping to play in his fourth World Cup, is the top candidate on the left.

Michael Bradley, son of former coach Bob Bradley, has become the center of the team in a mid-field role. Bradley and Dempsey sparked a return of players to MLS, with Bradley leaving Roma for Toronto after Dempsey's surprising decision to exit Tottenham for Seattle.

"I wasn't sure how ready I was going to be for World Cup not playing very much at Roma. That's a big reason why I'm here," Bradley said.

Based on the final tuneup before heading to Brazil, a 2-1 victory over Nigeria, Bradley would be paired with Jermaine Jones and Kyle Beckerman against Ghana.

"We know Kyle, that is his specialty to protect his teammates, to cover his teammates, to run endless miles for his team," Klinsmann said. "Jermaine in that kind of high position has more freedom to also go more forward so he kind of switch back and forth with Michael Bradley there. He knows there's somebody behind me, so if I lose the ball in my run, he's going to clean up for me. I think it worked out really well."

Kansas City's Graham Zusi and Nantes' Alejandro Bedoya head the wide midfield options, with Dempsey and Jozy Altidore up front.

The best track to the knockout phase appears to be a win against Ghana and hoping Germany wins its first two matches and starts its second string in the group-stage finale. Even with the difficult draw, the Americans are confident.

"This is what the World Cup's all about," Altidore said. "You go there to play against the best and try to show yourself. I think the boys will be excited, will be up for it."

Klinsmann's job more than coaching national team

Former German star transforming American system

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jurgen Klinsmann was hired to transform American football.

Not just the national team, but the nation's entire coaching structure.

With a sunny disposition and an open, chatty manner, Klinsmann had been viewed as a future United States coach when he retired as a player in 1998 and moved to California with his American wife. After coaching Germany to the World Cup semifinals in 2006, flirting with the U.S. job later that year and lasting less than a season with Bayern Munich, he finally replaced Bob Bradley when the Americans struggled in the 2011 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"It also is vital I am involved in all the discussions with a lot of coaches out there, how we improve the grass-roots level," Klinsmann said. "I'm fascinated by that approach."

The 49-year-old Klinsmann scored 47 goals in 108 appearances for West Germany and Germany, winning the 1990 World Cup and 1996 European Championship. His club career included stretches at Stuttgart, Inter Milan, Monaco, Tottenham and Bayern Munich.

He speaks to players with the experience of playing at the highest level in Europe, and he embraces the types of statistical analysis, fitness techniques and advanced diet first employed by American coaches in other sports. He also made the controversial decision to drop career scoring leader Landon Donovan.

"He's different, but good different," United States defender DaMarcus Beasley said. "He's always full of life. He's always laughing. He's always smiling. He's very energetic, even in meetings. You can tell that he's happy to be here, happy to be the coach of the national team. I just think his persona will kind of rub off on us and give us that fight and that passion, the same how he played when he was a player."



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Jurgen Klinsmann will coach the U.S. men's team through the 2018 World Cup.

Klinsmann's temperament may be more suited to the United States than it is his native Germany. Former Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeneß criticized Klinsmann for buying computers to prepare PowerPoint presentations of game plans for the club during the 2008-09 season.

Klinsmann already has committed to coach the United States through the 2018 World Cup. His message to his players often is simple. Despite all the high tech, the most important factor is effort.

"They dream about Champions League and they dream about playing for a big-name club and making a lot of money. It's all fine. But I'm telling them every time, you're not doing that by dreaming. You can only do it by working," Klinsmann said. "So if you think that five, six sessions a week is enough to get there, it's not. So if you add two sessions a week on your own, it will show a certain improvement."

Protesters clash with police

BY ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Protesters and Brazilian police clashed in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro on Thursday, just hours before the first World Cup match.

More than 300 demonstrators gathered along a main highway leading to the stadium in Sao Paulo. Some tried to block traffic, but police repeatedly pushed them back, firing canisters of tear gas and using stun grenades. The flow of traffic to the arena was not blocked.

A few protesters suffered injuries after being hit by rubber bullets, while others were seen choking after inhaling tear gas. An Associated Press photographer was injured in the leg after a stun grenade exploded near him. CNN reported on its website that two of its journalists were also injured.

"I'm totally against the Cup," said protester Tameres Mota, a university student at the Sao Paulo demonstration. "We're in a country where the money doesn't

go to the community, and meanwhile we see all these millions spent on stadiums."

In the crowd were anarchist adherents to the "Black Bloc" tactic of protest, a violent form of demonstration and vandalism that emerged in the 1980s in West Germany and helped shut down the 1999 World Trade Summit in Seattle.

Such Black Bloc protesters have frequently squared off against police in several Brazilian cities in the past year, as a drumbeat of anti-government demonstrations have continued since a massive wave of protests hit Brazil last year.

Meanwhile, about 300 protesters gathered in central Rio de Janeiro in another demonstration against the World Cup. Police started using tear gas and took a few protesters there into custody, as marchers took to streets to denounce lavish public spending on a sports tournament in a nation with profound social needs.

The demonstrations in recent months have paled in comparison to those last year, when a mil-

lion people took to the streets on a single night airing laments including the sorry state of Brazil's public services despite the heavy tax burden its citizens endure. Those protests were largely spontaneous and no single group organized them.

That's now changed, said David Fleischer, a political scientist at the University of Brasilia. He said the recent protests have shrunk, because they are "very specific, in their aims, so they are quite easy for the police to control."

Because the recent protests have been organized by established groups, there are leaders with whom the government can negotiate. For instance, Fleischer said, in the past week the federal government convinced a large activist group of homeless workers to not demonstrate during Cup.

But there will remain remnants of protests because people who adhere to the Black Bloc movement and other "anonymous groups are difficult to negotiate with because they have no leaders to dialogue with," Fleischer said.

SPORTS



Lundqvist keeps Kings from clinching the Cup
Page 25

Ready or not ...



KLINSMANN PHOTO MCT; OTHERS AP; ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

From left, U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, forward Jozy Altidore, goalkeeper Tim Howard and midfielder Michael Beasley will help determine the team's fortunes in Brazil.

Klinsmann, US prepare for difficult World Cup group

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

Since returning to the World Cup in 1990 after a 40-year absence, the United States has alternated group-stage elimination with advancement to the knockout round.

Ghana finished off the Americans in the first round in 2006, then four years ago beat them in extra time in the round of 16.

This year, the Americans open the tournament against the very same team before playing Portugal and Germany in what appears to be one of the most difficult groups.

"I don't feel we're going to Brazil as any type of an underdog," United States coach Jurgen Klinsmann said during the team's California training camp. "I feel like that

A little easier?

Going by FIFA rankings, the Americans' Group G was the most difficult to come out of December's draw. But in the June rankings issued last week, it became the second-toughest, with Germany (No. 2), Portugal (No. 4), the U.S. (No. 13) and Ghana (No. 37) adding to 56. Group D was slightly lower at 53, with Uruguay (No. 7), Italy (No. 8), England (No. 10) and Costa Rica (No. 28).

From The Associated Press



Inside:

- Group F, G previews and players to watch, Pages 28-29
- Americans say they can take the heat in Brazil, Page 30
- Ghana aiming to derail yet another U.S. bid, Page 30
- Coach's job is bigger than just national team, Page 31

we're going to be from Day 1 incredibly competitive. And I think the players, they feel that."

Competitive is one thing. But Klinsmann created a stir this week when he said winning the Cup wasn't a realistic goal.

He was quoted by The New York Times Magazine as saying in a December interview "we cannot win this World Cup, because we are not at that level yet."

"I think for us now, talking about win-

ning a World Cup is just not realistic," the American coach said Wednesday during his first news conference in Brazil before the tournament. "First, we've got to make it through the group. So let's stay with our feet on the ground and say let's get that group first done, and then the sky is the limit."

The Americans open Monday against Ghana, the team that eliminated them from the past two World Cups, then play

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